Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-233
Wednesday
4 December 1991

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegations Arrive for Washington Stage of Talks

Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation

JN0312173991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, 3 Dec (PETRA)—The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation arrived in Washington today to participate in the bilateral talks between the Arab sides and Israel, due to begin in Washington tomorrow.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said that Jordan was among the first countries to respond positively to participation in the bilateral talks, because of its belief in peace.

In press statements upon his arrival, he added: When we see a glimpse of hope for peace in the horizon, we try to grab it. We would like to be among the first to grab the chance to establish peace.

He said: We are here in Washington with open hearts and minds to discuss substantive issues, not to waste time on procedural matters. He added: I am optimistic, and hope that the Israeli delegation will arrive in Washington for the talks—that is, if the Israelis want peace.

In a statement read upon the delegation's arrival, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, spoke of the Palestinian position on the bilateral talks that will begin tomorrow. She said: We accepted the cosponsors' invitation to take part in the Middle East peace conference, and the U.S. invitation to participate in the talks that will begin tomorrow. We have come with good intentions, and with objective will, desire, and determination. We have not come to waste time. We have come for genuine and serious negotiations on substantive issues to make progress toward a just and lasting peace—the ultimate objective of the peace process.

She added: We have come to these negotiations with the same spirit and soul with which we took part in the Madrid conference. We have come with a continued commitment to a future of peace, justice, reconciliation, and an attempt to overcome the pains and tragedies of the past.

She also said that until now, the Palestinian people have been punished for seeking peace and for having the courage to speak for themselves before the world. Regrettably, Israel's only response was to continue its policy of force and control. It responded negatively to our positive answer for peace by escalating its settlement policy in the Palestinian occupied territories.

She added that the price we have paid for going to the peace conference in Madrid was Israel's confiscation of our land, demolition of our homes, and closure of the B'ir Zayt university for three more months.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said: We have come here at the request of our people and leadership in a spirit of responsibility. We insist that the language of oppression and hegemony will not remain a feature of the next century. Let us make a future for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples based on mutual recognition and shared rights. We welcome this opportunity, which will allow us to talk to the American people, and we appreciate their great concern for finding a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

She added that the entire world is interested in peace. She said: We will talk to all those wishing to listen to our viewpoint. By participating in the bilateral talks, the Palestinian delegation stresses the fairness of the basis on which the peace process was based, including the need to apply UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, and other pertinent resolutions, as well as applying the principles of international law by all parties. We are determined to overcome obstacles, not to create them.

'Ashrawi welcomed the start of the bilateral talks and said: We expect all parties to participate with the seriousness which peace deserves.

Answering a question regarding the technical problems relating to the entry visas to the United States, she said: I am happy that we have been able to overcome these obstacles. The delegation is now here and is prepared to start the bilateral talks tomorrow.

Regarding the U.S. role in the peace process, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: The United States has played a major role since the start of this process, which started on its own initiative. We feel it is serious and determined to proceed with this process. Therefore, we are happy, and we need such commitment and seriousness from the United States to attain real peace.

Jordanian Chief Negotiator Comments

JN0312214291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks scheduled to begin in Washington tomorrow, Wednesday, has said: We have come here to hold direct negotiations with the Israelis over mutual, substantive issues, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of the return of the occupied territories in exchange for recognizing Israel and its security.

In a press conference he held in Washington this evening, al- Majali said: Israeli rulers have always said they are prepared to meet with any Arab leader anytime and at any place, but it seems this is not the case on this occasion.

He said: In Madrid, we were prepared and eager to continue this process, which started in the opening session of the peace conference, but the Israelis do not seem to share our genuine desire to take advantage of this opportunity, and to continue with it until we reach

the ultimate goal, Jordan's goal, to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He added: Once again we find ourselves waiting and hoping for this process to continue. This process started with an initiative by the cosponsors—the United States and the Soviet Union—with the approval and willingness of the Jordanians, the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese. In spite of this, we see that the other side is absent without any legitimate reason.

He said: We are here, prepared to negotiate for peace. We will be there on 4 December to take part in bilateral, direct, and substantive talks with Israel, that is if the Israeli delegation shows up. If we see the Israeli seats vacant, it will be they, and not the Arabs, who will be responsible for the failure to achieve progress toward peace. The Arabs cannot be held responsible on the pretext that they do not want to meet with the Jewish state.

He said: We cannot tolerate any delay in the peace process, and we are very irritated by Israel's procrastination and the reasons it gives as an excuse for delaying that process. We sincerely hope that Israel will put an end to such acts and will seriously seek the holding of substantive discussions on the issues pertaining to real peace.

9 Dec 'Inconvenient'

JN0412065091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Dec 91

[George Tarif report from Washington]

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington, has said that the Jordanian delegation has come to the U.S. capital to resume bilateral talks with the Israeli delegation based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate land for peace.

In a press statement read in English at a news conference he held at the Willard Hotel in Washington, where the Jordanian delegation to the talks is staying, Dr. al-Majali said: There is agreement that the United States will play a role in bringing the viewpoints of the negotiating parties closer. Israel, however, rejected the U.S. invitation to resume the talks scheduled for today with the aim of obstructing the peace which Jordan seeks to attain. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists, Dr. al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation said: We have come to Washington to prove to the world our desire for peace, and that we are sincere in our endeavor. We have not come to waste time, or to talk about anything other than peace. He explained that Israel always prepares for war, and that now that the chance for peace has come, Israel evades it. He said that this shows the world who wants peace: the Arabs, or Israel, which places obstacles and creates problems to prevent the attainment of peace in the Middle East—a peace for which the entire world aspires.

He also said that 9 December, the date suggested by Israel, is inconvenient for several reasons.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the talks, held a news conference at the Grand Hotel one hour before al-Majali's news conference. She stressed that the Palestinian delegation has come to Washington to resume talks with Israel on 4 December, the date fixed by the United States, in order to attain peace. If the Israelis are serious, then they should be present at the time fixed for the talks. She stressed that the Palestinian delegation has not come to waste time, and called on Israel to act seriously.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that Israel established a settlement near Nabulus on the eve of these talks, and expanded other settlements. Israel plans to build more settlements in the occupied territories. It confiscated 8 percent of West Bank land in 1991. Moreover, since the Madrid conference, Israel confiscated 2,240 dunums of Palestinian land, and established two new settlements: one on the Golan, and the other in the Palestinian occupied territories.

In her news conference, the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman said: These actions prove to the world that Israel wants to torpedo the peace process, and obstruct it through various means.

Regarding 9 December, the date suggested by Israel, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: This date is rejected because it coincides with the fifth anniversary of the intifadah. It is a day of general strike.

'Ashrawi on Agenda for Talks

PM0412102091 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 25 Nov 91 p 6

[Report on interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Janiki Cingoli in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—The public prosecutor decided a few days ago not to prosecute Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis, accused in a police report because of a statement to Jordanian television in which she confirmed having had dealings with the PLO. [passage omitted]

"Yes, of course," she said, "it was a ridiculous move on their part, which displayed the utter futility of their prohibitions and prejudices. But what has recently pleased me most is the solidarity that I have received from all sides—from the United States and President Bush, from Europe, from the Arab states, and from the Palestinians. I was particularly touched by the very cordial solidarity conveyed to me by so many Israelis, especially by the women of the peace camp. It was not

something personal to do with me, but something symbolic. However, this too shows that we cannot accept the government's proposal to hold the bilateral negotiations here in Israel: We cannot negotiate under occupation, subject to their intimidations; we would not be free, we could not negotiate on an equal basis. [passage omitted]

[Cingoli] What is the situation with the negotiations and your own situation after Madrid?

['Ashrawi] It took a long time and many preparations to reach Madrid; but basically that was the easiest stage, and the difficult part is beginning now. We made huge concessions to make it possible to start the negotiations: We accepted that there be no official PLO representation in the Palestinian delegation, that there be no representatives of the Palestinians from outside or from East Jerusalem; they even tried to forbid us to officially mention the PLO in our statements to the conference. We have shown that we want peace. We have focused on the fact that the negotiation process could make possible a dynamic inherent to this very process, which would make it possible to carry it forward; we thought that the negotiations themselves could change things. Now it is up to the Israelis to display their good faith.

[Cingoli] What are the main obstacles?

['Ashrawi] The main problem is the settlements. Their continuation conflicts with the very principle of the peace process, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the exchange of land for peace. We are drafting a report on the new settlements that have been started since Madrid: A further three have been started, and there are also four other enlargements of existing settlements. And expropriations of land for roads and settlements are becoming increasingly widespread. All this is very dangerous.

[Cingoli] Are you making a halt on settlements a precondition for the start of bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] No, we are not setting it as a formal precondition. But a halt not only on new settlements but also on the enlargement of existing ones—a halt, I repeat, and not a suspension—is an objective necessity for continuing the peace process. Otherwise it will be difficult to set the agenda for negotiations.

[Cingoli] Basically, you are saying that without that, it would in practice be difficult to create at least the minimum trust required for progress in the bilateral negotiations.

['Ashrawi] Yes, that is so. At our first meeting with the Israelis we Palestinians submitted a list of 25 essential measures for building trust between us and them. They include such measures as the release of Palestinian prisoners in administrative detention, without trial; the return of all our deported and expelled comrades; an end to the destruction of homes; an end to all acts of repression; the army's withdrawal from inhabited areas; freedom of expression and political organization; the freedom for Palestinian representatives to travel abroad and to maintain open relations with their organizations, and especially the PLO; and the reopening of schools and universities. It is a matter of Israel's demonstrating that it wants to negotiate in earnest, not of somehow legitimizing the occupation, making it more humane.

[Cingoli] What is the present topic of your dealings with Israel?

['Ashrawi] It is the issue of the transitional phase in the territories, before reaching the definition of their final status. There are two different opinions on this. Israel has in mind a form of autonomy deriving from the Camp David agreements. They have in mind unilateral steps that will insert Palestinian representatives into the existing administrative and social structure, of the occupation, leaving it basically unchanged. It is a very rigid structure within which the occupation authorities would remain the reference point. For us, the transition phase is a dynamic phase moving toward the building of the state. It must be a limited period and must not embody anything prejudicial to the ultimate outcome of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Syrian Chief Negotiator Makes Statement

JN0412074291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Washington—The Syrian Arab Republic's delegation to the second stage of Middle East peace talks, headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, arrived in Washington at dawn today.

In a statement at the airport al-'Allaf said: The delegation has come to the U.S. capital in accordance with the invitation of the peace conference cosponsors—the United States and the Soviet Union—to begin the second stage of talks. He added that during this stage, the delegation will focus on discussing substantial issues related to the core of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf said that the Syrian delegation will be ready to begin these talks on the date specified in the invitation: today, Wednesday, 4 December.

The Lebanese delegation headed by Suhayl Shammas also arrived in the U.S. capital at a later time.

Israel Reports Negotiators' Departure Schedule

TA0412101591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It was announced by official sources last night that only the team to the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and his deputy Eytan Bentsur, will depart for Washington on Saturday night [7 December]. This team will launch the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, on the condition that

the United States renege on its announcement that the talks with the Palestinians about autonomy will be held separately from the talks with the Jordanians. Rubinstein's team is scheduled to return the following Thursday [12 December].

The team headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Dr. Yosef Hadas will depart for Washington at the end of that same week. The team to the talks with Syria, headed by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's office, and his assistant David Afeq, will leave for Washington only a few days later, when the team headed by Yosef Hadas returns to Israel. This means that the Syrian delegation will have to wait in Washington for almost two weeks. Political sources in Jerusalem said the chances of Syria's agreeing to such a move are nil. [passage omitted]

Delegations To Begin Talks 9 Dec

TA0412115191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpts] On Monday, 9 December, the three Israeli delegations will be in Washington ready to open the peace talks with all the Arab delegations: the Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinians, and the Lebanese. In the inner cabinet meeting which preceded the trilateral consultations between Shamir, Levi, and Arens, it was decided that all the delegations would be there on 9 December. Foreign Minister Levi said that it would be a mistake to send the Israeli delegations in staggered periods of four or five days. [passage omitted]

When the foreign minister came out against that intention, the prime minister suggested holding consultations immediately after the inner cabinet meeting. There, Shamir, Levi, and Arens decided that all the Israeli delegations would be in Washington on 9 December, and Deputy Minister Netanyahu already has informed the U.S. Administration about that decision. All three will be ready to open the discussions on the same day without splitting the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation and without time intervals. [passage omitted]

Shamir Wants To Avoid 'Confrontation'

TA0412053291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations will come to the State Department and a government office building in Washington at 1700 today for the opening of the bilateral talks. The Israeli delegation will be absent. 'Oded Ben- 'Ami, our correspondent in Washington, reports that Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu conferred last night with Dennis Ross, head of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, and gave him a message from Prime Minister Shamir in which he said that Israel wants to avoid a confrontation with the Americans. He also made clear that the Israeli delegation would come next Monday. [passage omitted]

According to reports reaching Jerusalem, the USSR wants to encourage progress in the multilateral negotiations to solve regional problems even if a deadlock emerges in the bilateral talks. The multilateral conference, which will open in Moscow in late January, will try to find solutions to regional problems, such as water, energy, and disarmament. Egyptian sources told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the USSR also has invited Yemen to the regional talks in Moscow.

Main Points of Proposals Outlined

TA0412092791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer in Washington]

[Text] Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington, said yesterday that "the Israeli delegation to the negotiations will bring serious and practical proposals early next week to the talks with the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and the Lebanese. We will suggest to the Syrians that they discuss a peace accord with Israel," Shoval said.

It has been learned that a committee headed by Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the negotiating team with the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, has worked out a series of practical proposals to be presented to the Palestinians on issues pertaining to self-government. These are the main points in the Israeli proposal:

—Israel suggests that the autonomy for the Palestinians apply to the people and not the land. Nevertheless, Israel is now prepared to seek the cooperation of the Palestinians' local authorities in sharing responsibility for the sharing of state lands and water resources.

—Israel proposes reinforcing internal security forces (the Palestinians' police force) during the interim stage.

—The government offices and the defense establishment has prepared detailed proposals to transfer full responsibility (including health and trade) to the self-governing authority.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Requests Emergency Arab League Meeting

To Discuss U.S. 'Threats'

NC0412093591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, assistant Arab League secretary general for political affairs, said today that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has called for convening an Arab League emergency meeting tomorrow at the level of permanent representatives.

'Imran said that the Libyan request was contained in a memorandum submitted by Libyan Permanent Representative 'Ali al-Turayki during his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday.

In its memorandum, Libya requested that the Arab League discuss the question of continuing U.S. threats against Libya regarding the explosion of the U.S. airliner over Scotland in December 1988, and the U.S. accusation that two Libyans were involved in the incident.

The Arab League General Secretariat has distributed the memorandum and asked the members to respond to the Libyan request.

Council To Convene 5 Dec

NC0412104991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League Council will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow morning at the level of permanent representatives to discuss the U.S. threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, will chair the meeting.

The Arab League General Secretariat received the approval of the Arab governments to hold the meeting on the Libyan request. The request was submitted yesterday by Libyan Permanent Representative 'Ali al-Turayki to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid during their meeting.

AMU Draws Up Unified Customs Classification

LD0312233791 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] joint committee in charge of drawing up a unified custom classification concluded its proceedings in Tripoli. A unified customs system has been set up and it provides for the removal of all the restrictions facing external trade in the Arab Maghreb Union. It also provides for the protection of economic movement in the AMU against the restrictions imposed by the frontiers created by colonialism.

The AMU joint committee in charge of drawing up a unified customs classification held its meetings in Tripoli in the past two days with the participation of delegations from the Great Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Secretary—Success of Talks Depends on U.S.

NC0412101291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Dec (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has affirmed that four Palestinians accompanying the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have not obtained entry visas to the United States.

He asserted the Palestinian side's insistence on beginning the the self-determination stage three years after the transitional period, not after five years as Israel demands.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-SHAkQ AL-AWSAT, he said that the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations will commence dialogue with the U.S. mediator regardless of whether Israel's delegation attends. He noted that the prospects for the success of the bilateral negotiations depend on the United States, which is offering Israel the means to continue the occupation.

He said if special arrangements to guarantee freedom of worship in Jerusalem are raised at the negotiations, and if it is desired that Jerusalem be a unified capital for the two states, then the Palestinians will be ready to negotiate on the issue.

PLO's 'Abbas Comments on Talks, Jerusalem Issue

LD0412091891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] In a lengthy interview with the Tunisian paper EL CHOUROUK, Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the U.S. Administration is serious in its endeavor for peace in the Middle East and that the autonomy rule proposed to the Palestinians is only a transitional phase. He also revealed that the Palestinians have received assurances from Washington in this respect. Regarding Jerusalem, he stated that there are two Jerusalems, one for the Palestinians and another for the Jews.

PLO's 'Aruri Hopes Relations With U.S. Restored

NC0412100291 London MBC Television in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Interview with PLO Central Council Member Taysir 'Aruri by Mahir Shalabi in Washington—date not given]

[Text] [Shalabi] We are happy to welcome Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, member of the PLO Central Council and of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian People's Party. Dr. 'Aruri, your presence in Washington is itself an event. Is this a step toward restoring relations between the United States and the PLO?

['Aruri] I believe that breaking relations or dialogue between the PLO and the United States could not be justified. We believe that there is now a major and urgent need to resume dialogue between the two, and hope that this round of meetings in Washington will be a step on this road.

[Shalabi] Does your presence here as official PLO members mean normalizing relations with the United States?

['Aruri] We hope so.

Chief Negotiator Views Peace, Arab Coordination

JN3011172791 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[By Khalil Kharmah]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian negotiator of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, has asserted the delegation's acceptance of the time and place set by the U.S. invitation to the bilateral talks between the Arab states and Israel.

In statements to AL-BAYAN's Amman correspondent, 'Abd-al-Shafi said the joint delegation is to leave Amman for Washington next Monday in time for the resumption of negotiations on Wednesday. He emphasized that the Jordanian-Palestinian side will stick to the date set by Washington. They reject the Israeli Government's quibbling over procedural matters as attempts to blow up the peace process, 'Abd-al-Shafi declared.

The Arab parties are determined to pursue the battle for peace until a just and comprehensive peace is obtained on the lines of the UN and Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that during his Damascus visit he discussed coordinating peace moves with Syrian officials. Both sides, he noted, underscored the need for peace process to produce a comprehensive and durable peace.

Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinians have stressed their commitment to a comprehensive peace and a rejection of separate deals in their recent contacts and talks.

'Abd-al-Shafi added that contacts are ongoing with Cairo, and these have yielded complete and absolute Egyptian support for the Palestinian delegation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Jordan's chief negotiator to the peace talks, yesterday told the Jordanian daily AL-RA'Y that the Jordanian Government accepted the U.S. invitation to the bilateral talks in Washington, scheduled to open 4 December, and that the Jordanian team will show up in time to resume the negotiations.

Further Comments on Peace Talks

PM0212161191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 91 p 8

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief of the Palestinian delegation at the peace negotiations, by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] What are the questions or queries which you have put to Washington and to which you are still awaiting answers?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am not directly concerned with that subject, as contacts are made through the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. Direct contacts are made by Hanan 'Ashrawi. And what I know is that no questions have been put forward. In fact the names of Palestinians have been put forward to obtain U.S. entry visas. And it seems that the United States objects to some Palestinian figures, but not to others.

[Al-Husayni] Will you, as an official Palestinian delegation, refuse to go to Washington to continue the negotiations if the United States insists on its position with regard to not granting entry visas to PLO members?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not imagine that we will be in a position to refuse to go to Washington, because it has become known that we passed that difficulty when we went to the Madrid conference. And I imagine that the matter will be settled, because there are many figures who can fill the vacuum and who can obtain U.S. entry visas.

[Al-Husayni] Why does the PLO now insist that figures known for their role in the PLO participate in the Washington talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This whole matter is more a matter of appearance than reality in my view. This is because everyone knows that our loyalty is to our legitimate leadership—the PLO. Thus the insistence is on nothing except that. In fact the ostensible situation with regard to Israel's sensitivities has nothing to do with logic at all! But as an apparent difficulty we overcome it one way or another. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Are you an official member of the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course, I first attended the PLO constituent conference in 1964, as I was deputy chairman of the constituent conference. I was also a member of the first Executive Committee. And I was, of course, a member of the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] until 1967. Then Israel totally prevented us from participating in PLO proceedings. So morally I am, of course, a PLO member and PNC member. Basically, one of the demands which we will make during the negotiations to be held—if the road opens up—is for PNC members inside [the occupied territories] to be allowed to exercise their powers as PNC members, since we are naturally PLO members.

[Al-Husayni] Israel has requested that the talks be postponed and the venue be changed. Why, in your view, has (Israeli Prime Minister) Shamir started to adopt a hard line?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I think that Shamir was forced to participate in the peace conference. He did not want to and tried in every way to prevent the convening of the peace conference. He went reluctantly to the conference. Besides, his behavior and departure before the end of the conference were proof of that. The statements made daily by Shamir and his aides since the end of the first

stage have tried to hint to everyone that it is futile to convene the conference because Israel is insisting on its hard-line position and its recent position with regard to the request for a postponement on various pretexts is a continuation of that obstructive Israel position. Because the pretext that they need more time is illogical, as the bilateral negotiations were supposed to be held 10 days ago, or 20 November, and have now been postponed until 4 December, that is, two weeks later. So the Israeli request is unreasonable and illogical.

[Al-Husayni] Why do you say that Shamir rejects the conference when he is going to lose or concede nothing, while the Palestinians abandoned all their conditions and went to the conference announcing their agreement to autonomy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinians did not agree to autonomy. We went to the conference to demand our right to an independent Palestinian state and implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from the occupied areas, in order to allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It is this which worries Israel. It knows that it will find itself isolated and that, unless it abandons its inflexibility, it will be exposed as the party obstructing the road to a just peace in the region.

[Al-Husayni] But you went to the Madrid conference in the full knowledge that the maximum in the first stage is autonomy and that the final fate of the occupied territories might be discussed after five years. No one raised the question of an independent state. And the United States announced that it is not in favor of an independent state.

['Abd-al-Shafi] True, the United States announced that, but it will not object if the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is arrived at during the negotiations. We are not absolutely opposed to autonomy. We accept it as a phase toward an independent state. Thus—and as there is another stipulated phase to determine the final status of the occupied areas—all we are demanding is a halt to settlement-building. This is because settlement in itself changes the nature of the occupied areas, thus making negotiations in the phase scheduled to determine their final status illogical. To prepare for the phase of determining the final status, anything that is bound to change the situation in the occupied areas must be stopped now, especially any measures on the ground, that is settlement and settlements. This demand of ours is consistent with the stages which we have accepted. And we now demand a halt to settlement as a natural, logical measure in line with that understanding of the issue. Of course, when settlement is halted, we enter into the negotiations for transferring power to the autonomy stage, that is, including services, health, education, the economy, and other things.

[Al-Husayni] Your request concerning a halt to settlement has been changed by Shamir into a subject for discussion, as he said "the settlements are part of the territory problem to be discussed during the negotiations." Does this mean that settlement will not be halted before the negotiations? Your condition in the past was not to participate in the conference until settlement was halted. And it seems that the settlement-building process involves many probabilities.

['Abd-al-Shafi] We cannot participate in any negotiations over side issues before the settlement issue is settled.

[Al-Husayni] Does that mean that you will not participate in the second stage, for which you will go to Washington, before settling the question of ...

['Abd-al-Shafi] The moment we sit down at the table, we will find the means to raise the settlement question and a halt to the settlement-building process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] If autonomy is the final stage, what will you do?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It will not be the final stage.

[Al-Husayni] Do you have any assurances about that?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not accept it as a final stage.

[Al-Husayni] What guarantees do you have that this will not be so?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There are no assurances, but this is our position and our demand. Besides, our demand is not remote from or outside the boundaries of the law. Our position is based on international legitimacy, Geneva conventions, and the UN resolutions. Whereas the Israeli position conflicts with all these principles because it is based only on absolute power.

[Al-Husayni] If Israel insists and the United States proposes that the negotiations be moved to the Middle East region, will you accept? And, if yes, would that not be regarded as a recognition of Israel's right to exist even before negotiations start?

['Abd-al-Shafi] With regard to the issue of recognizing Israel's right to exist, there is the 1988 Geneva peace initiative in which we accepted the principle of two states. So the initiative we presented is based on our recognition of Israel's right to exist. But we do not recognize its right to all Palestinian territory, leaving us outside—no. We demand the establishment of a just peace on the basis of the two states principle stipulated by the partition resolution, No. 181. This is the Palestinian position. It is very clear and legitimate. And Israel must respond to right and logic.

[Al-Husayni] Are you willing to move to the Middle East to conduct the negotiations there?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There will be a unified Arab position on the venue issue. We used to anticipate events. Now that

it has been agreed to hold the negotiations in Washington, we believe that they should remain in Washington until a positive change occurs in the Israeli position—a change that allows the negotiations to move on to the principal issues concerning the transfer of power. On the basis of such a positive change we can think about moving the negotiations to a venue nearer than Washington, perhaps Europe. That will be subject to discussion and requires a unified Arab position. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You insist on adhering to the solutions stipulated in the international resolutions. But even Washington, which supports peace and the conference, says that it refuses to see Israel withdraw from all the territories which it occupied in 1967....

['Abd-al-Shafi] The United States did not say that. In fact it provided us with a letter containing guarantees and assurances. Actually it basically says that, as it sees it, there must be a withdrawal from the occupied areas. It says that openly, in writing.

And it believes that the conference, which is convened on the basis of the UN resolutions, means withdrawal from the occupied areas. The United States has never said that it does not want complete withdrawal from the occupied areas.

[Al-Husayni] But the U.S. officials concerned with the region emphasize —especially at this stage—that from the outset the United States has not recognized that Resolution 242 means withdrawal from all the occupied territories!

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am saying that the United States does not say that. But I can add that there was a disagreement over the interpretation of the resolution and whether the withdrawal is from all the occupied areas or from some occupied areas. The argument is over the interpretation. Anyhow, in the negotiations we know that the United States does not want to interfere or specify something in particular. I do not see that that causes obstruction. What is important is for Israel to stop its allegation that the entire territory belongs to it and that we have no right to our country and homes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Are you allowed to discuss the Jerusalem issue at the beginning of the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are entitled to raise it.

[Al-Husayni] And will you raise it in Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course, of course, we will raise it, as Jerusalem comes under the settlement issue. Because they (the Israelis) are still building settlements in the Jerusalem area. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Ilyas Frayj [mayor of Bethlehem] said that he wanted to see a confederal state comprising Israel, Jordan, and Palestine and similar to "Benelux," where freedom of movement is guaranteed. Do you agree with him, or do you really want an independent state?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Wishes differ from the situation, and we cannot anticipate events, because they are gradually proceeding. The first step should be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. And if that independent state wants to establish a confederation with Jordan or Israel, or with the two states, or with Egypt, that is subject to the masses' freedom of opinion. So the first step is independence. [passage omitted]

Discusses U.S. Stance, Self-Rule

LD3011185891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi believes that Arab-Israeli talks must remain in Washington until a positive change occurs in the Israeli stance that would allow for the gradual progression of negotiations to the main questions of the transfer of power to Palestinians. He said that on the basis of that positive change we may be able to think about transferring the venue of talks to a place closer than Washington—perhaps Europe—providing that would be subject to discussion and dependent on a united Arab stance. Regarding the United States' negative stance vis-a-vis the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the leader of the Palestinian delegation said: It is true that America has announced this fact, but it has no objection if agreement is reached during the talks on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. 'Abd al-Shafi added that Palestinians would accept self-rule in a stage of transition toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as long as there is another stipulated stage for deciding the final state of the occupied regions. All we would demand is for settlements to be stopped because that alters the nature of the occupied region in a way that will make negotiations at the difficult stage of final self-determination an illogical question.

Israeli Paper Interviews People's Party Leader

TA0312152991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Dec 91 pp 22, 23

["First interview to an Israeli newspaper" of Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party and editor-in-chief of AL-TALI'AH, by Yoram Binur; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Binur] What is the most prominent mission of the Palestinian delegation in Washington?

[Al-Barghuthi] Building a home for the family. Our family is the Palestinian people, and the home is our national homeland, of course.

[Binur] And what else, in addition to that allegory?

[Al-Barghuthi] The first thing that must be done is to stop the settlement process. If you continue to set up settlements, there will be nothing to talk about; there will be no land. An end to the settlement process must take

place before the negotiations get under way. Talks cannot be held under the threat of confiscating land from the population.

[Binur] Some Palestinians are particularly apprehensive about the interim phase. They say that an interim period of three to five years of relative calm will make everybody forget the problem, and you will ultimately end up with autonomy.

[Al-Barghuthi] The promises about an independent state at the end of the interim phase do not constitute an iron-clad guarantee. The interim period itself must include elements that will ensure an independent state. Control over the land and resources must be in Palestinian hands during this period, and the same goes for the source of legal authority in the territories. We need a Palestinian parliament, and we need to build the tools for the transfer of power after Israel's withdrawal. Only correct planning of the interim phase will ensure an independent state and prevent de facto autonomy.

[Binur] Recent assessments have it that the PLO's power has been declining and that there are representatives in the territories who "can do business."

[Al-Barghuthi] The assessments about a "qyada badila" ("alternative leadership") originated in the Israeli press and, in my opinion, were leaked to it by Israeli elements. No person in the territories can say "yes" if the PLO says "no," or vice versa. From their very first meeting with Baker, the Palestinian delegates have said that they are talking for the PLO, and Shamir heard this just as everyone else did. What matters is the content of the negotiations and reaching an agreement on self-determination and a Palestinian state—because these are the PLO's positions—rather than playing this game about an alternative leadership.

[Binur] In the last few months the Israeli authorities in the territories have been trying, occasionally with success, to set up bodies that, following democratic elections, would be placed in charge of some municipal affairs. You published an article objecting to the establishment of city councils in the territories. Why?

[Al-Barghuthi] The Israelis cannot negotiate with an authorized delegation and with local representatives at the same time. It is inconceivable that the Israelis should turn to neighborhood mukhtars and shaykhs to decide about political issues when we have an official delegation that constitutes a clear addressee for such matters. Do the Israelis want city councils in the territories? All right—there is an authoritative delegation and a framework for talks; the issue should be raised in those talks in due time. The establishment of city councils in the territories while the talks are going on is an Israeli attempt to find an "alternative leadership" to the delegation before the latter has actually begun doing its work. It is an attempt to undermine the status of the delegation in the eyes of the Palestinian public. Such an attempt will not benefit either side. I do not expect that the city council planned in Gaza will materialize, and I do not believe a similar attempt in other cities will succeed.

[Binur] Palestinian leaders have criticized the moves that led to the composition of the delegation and the decisionmaking process adopted by the PLO in Tunis. Do you people agree?

[Al-Barghuthi] I take more interest in what the delegation is doing than in who its members are. As for your question, I believe errors were committed in the composition of the delegation, and that is only natural. We have no political experience, and even those who do have such experience make mistakes. We should, therefore, be understanding of mistakes and not turn them into a subject of derision. As for the PLO's decisionmaking mechanism, it could use some improvement, but those people are also inexperienced. All in all, it seems to me that things are being run properly.

[Binur] Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation affiliated with the Palestinian People's Party, said in an interview that he saw graffiti sprayed on a wall in Ramallah which read: "We will neither forget nor forgive." The graffiti alluded to the Palestinian victims of the intifadah. Do you think you will be able to move to a "phase" of peace?

[Al-Barghuthi] A future is not built on emotions. We will not forget the victims, but we must also think of our children. Moreover, and I am not drawing any analogies, there are a German Embassy in Tel Aviv and an Israeli Embassy in Bonn, are there not?

Residents Divided on Support for Negotiating Team

TA0412073491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The efforts by the Palestinian leaders to close ranks among residents of the territories behind the negotiations with Israel in Washington, and the fact that Faysal al-Husayni tends to personally supervise them, once again raises the question whether the Palestinian representatives to the peace talks represent the majority in the territories.

East Jerusalem newspapers recently published commissioned polls, some of which indicate support for the negotiating team, while others express no confidence in the peace process and the Palestinian representatives. A direct outcome of the pressure by the Palestinian leaders was the appearance in the territories last night of an appendix to a leaflet issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. For the first time, the leaflet calls for unity behind the Palestinians in Washington and support for the negotiations through peace processions today in East Jerusalem and the opening of businesses throughout the day and not up to midday as the intifadah had ordered up to now. That demand was restricted to East Jerusalem, perhaps due to the concern

that it would be difficult to implement in the territories since the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called on the inhabitants of the territories to hold a protest strike today over the opening of the bilateral negotiations with Israel. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 4 December, in a page A2 report by Yosi Torpstein, says that the leaflet points out that the PFLP's George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, "met and agreed on a plan of joint action and closer coordination between the two organizations. The leaflet describes the peace process as a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy aimed at imposing a 'new Camp David plan'". It goes on to say that "the leaflet proposes setting up various bodies with the participation of all the organization under the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah: political committees, sectarian councils of unions, and joint commands in each region."]

Anyway, the Palestinian delegation will wait in Washington today with the Israeli delegation's seats remaining empty. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said last night after the Palestinians meeting with the Spanish prime minister that the Palestinians will sit at the table waiting for the Israelis.

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording, in English] The Palestinians will be sitting at the table waiting for the Israeli delegation to come. If the Israelis fail to come because of the rain, or because of any other political reason, they are in a position to be blamed, and the whole world will expose them to the real Israeli stubborn position. [end recording] [Amir translates the above and continues] Abu-'Ayyash, a member of the advisory council to the Palestinian delegation, kicked off the Palestinians' public relations offensive last night.

West Bank, Gazans Polled on Talks

TA0312172891 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—The Asil Institute for Research and Information conducted a poll among West Bank and Gaza Strip residents from 24 to 26 November. 848 randomly chosen residents were questioned, and the results are as follows:

1. Do you believe that the Palestinian negotiating delegation should withdraw from the bilateral talks due to Yitzhaq Shamir's continuing statements rejecting any withdrawal or a halt to settlement activity?

Yes, 48.58 percent; no, 46.70 percent; no opinion, 4.72 percent.

2. Do you believe that the outcome of these talks will lead to:

Final self-rule: 26.42 percent
An independent Palestinian state: 11.56 percent
Maintaining the status quo: 24.06 percent
A confederation with Jordan: 33.25 percent
No opinion: 4.71 percent

3. Do you believe that the Palestinian negotiating delegation should announce: "We are the PLO?"

Yes, 65.45 percent; no, 27.59 percent; no opinion, 6.96 percent.

'Arafat Meets Syrian Vice President in Tunis

JN0212172491 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met with Syrian Vice President Dr. Rif'at al-Asad in Tunis the night before last. They discussed the Arab and international situation in light of recent developments, including the current endeavors to bring about peace in the region as well as the bilateral negotiations to be held in Washington in the coming days.

Media Comments on Peace Talks, Issues, Actions

Absence of European Role Viewed

LD0312235691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The observer of the developments in the Middle East peace process must note the absence of the conventional European role with regard to Middle East issues and European contentment to observe what is happening from a distance while supporting U.S.-Soviet efforts on the peace process. One notes this starting with the contacts and preparations that preceded the holding of Madrid summit, recalling what happened during the summit itself, and arriving at the current preparations for holding the second round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks. This is despite the disparity between Europe's traditional political stances regarding the Arab-Israeli conflicts and the principles and bases for settlement of these conflicts, and what is currently happening to resolve these conflicts.

Despite the fact that the European Community is expected to take part in the multilateral talks on the Middle East, in which economic cooperation will have a notable position, materialization of this role is primarily linked to the achievement of fundamental progress regarding bilateral talks. This has been proved impossible to achieve without effective and constant international intervention in the talks.

When the talk is about an international role, this should not be restricted to the United States and the Soviet Union. Europe, in its capacity as an economic and political force, has its weight in the new world order and is capable of playing an effective role either directly or indirectly in the peace process.

What applies to Europe can also be applied to a larger degree to Japan and China. If Israel keeps insisting on excluding all international forces from effectively taking

part in the peace process and accepts a superficial and limited participation of these forces, this should give an indication of the contradiction between the goals that Israel desires to achieve regarding the peace process and the aims that the international community strives to realize.

If the contradiction is clear to a degree that threatens the whole peace process, what is required today is not only to pursue the same kind of efforts as in the past; what is warranted is the mobilization of all international forces that strive for the establishment of peace, security, and stability in the Middle East in order to exert a united effort based on the foundations of international legality and its resolutions to open up a path toward peace. This cannot be achieved without the removal of the essential obstacles hampering the peace process, most notably of which is Israel's rejection of dealing with international legitimacy or accepting and implementing its resolutions on the conflict.

In our view, Europe possesses enough political and economic elements to enable it to play an effective role in the peace process and to support U.S.-Soviet efforts. It can give these efforts the aspect of a comprehensive international role, especially since the Arab and Palestinian sides have shown readiness to accept any international role based on the United Nations and UN Security Council resolutions in dealing with issues of the region.

Through this alone, the peace process can emerge from the notion of marking time and from the impasse in which it finds itself whenever there is talk about essential issues related to the fundamentals and causes of the conflict.

U.S. Pressure on Israel Urged

LD0412002291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers, the Government of Israel continues its rejection of the date fixed by the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and insists on its postponement to 9 December. This is occuring at the time when our negotiating delegation has departed for Washington to start the second round of bilateral negotiations tomorrow. In view of this, the question being raised in this context is directly connected with the supposed U.S. position toward the Israeli rejection. What would the reaction of President Bush's administration be? As for our delegation and the rest of the Arab delegations, the Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese, as well as for the observers, the United Nations, European countries, and others, the issue will be clear, and it is: The Israeli Government is indifferent toward the peace process currently in progress, and is falsely creating obstacles and impediments on the path of this peace every now and then. Its postponement decision is precisely a decision seriously obstruct the whole of this process.

Naturally, the expected wide international media coverage of Israeli's adverse and obstructionist stance, with all its importance in influencing world public opinion, is insufficient. What is needed is a clear and decisive measure from the co-sponsors of the peace conference, the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as from the European countries, and also from Japan, to put serious pressure on the Israeli Government to insure its participation in the peaceful political process and its submission to the principles, foundations and rules of this process for the sake of achieving international legitimacy in which the aspiration for peace in this region is represented.

As observers see it, the Israeli Government, for its part, is trying to explain its position in various ways, all of which are in the final analysis completely brittle, and do not reflect any practical interest in the success of the peace process. That also confirms the need to put pressure for the sake of achieving success, so that the points of the dreadful failure do not accumulate one after the other.

U.S., Israeli Positions Examined

TA0312204291 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Dec 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What After the Israeli Rejection of the U.S. Invitation?"]

[Text] The interesting question is not whether Israel will attend the meetings of the second round of negotiations on 4 December, but to what extent relations between Washington and Tel Aviv have deteriorated and what will be the future of those relations. Some observers believe this to be the worst crisis in those relations since the establishment of Israel more than 43 years ago and that it harbors many perils for Israel and its future.

The Israeli Government is accusing the United States of favoring the Arabs. It alleges that the United States is encouraging the Arabs to reject settlement and promising them that Israel will ultimately withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and south Lebanon. For our part we say: If this is the American line, what crime is the United States committing by calling for an end to the occupation, a halt to settlement activity in the occupied territories, and implementation of international legitimacy? It is apparent that the disagreement between Washington and Tel Aviv is not over procedural matters, but over substance in the negotiations. Israel wants the negotiations to go on for many months and years, while Washington wants to achieve results as soon as possible, and the Arabs support it in this issue. Hence, Israel's accusation that Washington favors the Arabs and sympathizes with their views.

When the Israeli Government calls for changing the date of the meetings and transferring the negotiations to a venue in the Middle East, it seeks to prove to the Arabs and the world that the United States cannot dictate to

Israel any conditions, that it is an independent government that makes its own decisions about the negotiations and any other matter, and that the world should respect its will. The Israeli Government could have avoided this battle with the U.S. Administration, which it fabricated, but Shamir doubts Washington's intentions and fears the American rashness will ultimately be at the expense of Israel and its policies. The Israeli Government has not tried to extricate itself from the impasse and save face. Even its decision to send a low-level delegation to Washington to attend the opening of the conference will not bear fruit.

No one knows how events will develop in the next two days. Will the conference be opened with the Israeli seats vacant? Will the conference be postponed until the Israeli delegation comes on 9 December? Will the Arab delegations wait in Washington for five days until the Israeli delegation comes? It is difficult to speculate about the answers to these questions, but it is certain that when the lights get focused on the conference hall and the scenes are transmitted by television to American homes and the world, the first loser will be Israel, because of its absence. The interpretation will be that Israel wants to foil the peace conference and rejects negotiations. All this will result in a growing sympathy with the Palestinian and Arab position inside and outside the United States.

Why then did Shamir insist on this uproar? Perhaps what bothers Shamir is that the United States intends to play an active role and be the motivating force in the negotiations. As it has explained to both the Palestinians and the Israelis, it rejects the role of a mailman. Moreover, Washington enclosed with the invitations to the conference detailed ideas clarifying how the negotiations with the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese should begin. Among these ideas is withdrawal from some of the occupied territories. This behavior angered Shamir and members of his government. They considered this a bias toward the Arab side and viewed Washington as no longer playing the role of an honest broker.

Israel does not conceal its aims. It seeks nothing but land. Talk about giving up the occupied territories is regarded as sheer blasphemy. It wants to hold separate talks—with the Palestinians perhaps in Honolulu, the Jordanians in Tokyo, the Syrians at the North Pole, and with the Lebanese at the South Pole. It wants no party to intervene in the negotiations. At the end of the negotiations it wants the Arab states to sign peace treaties in return for peace. What sort of settlement is Israel seeking? And what peace does it want, other than the peace of graves?

Israeli-U.S. 'Battle of Wills' Noted

TA0312202391 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 2 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Battle of Wills"]

[Text] There seems to be a battle of wills between the United States and Israel or maybe a battle of wills between Israel and world public opinion.

Israel once again chose to go against the international tide and consensus when its cabinet voted not to go to Washington for the bilateral talks on Dec. 4, as the cosponsors decided, but rather said it would come on the 9th.

This was not the only condition by Israel to go to Washington. It added that the talks should not be substantive, but focus on technicalities and the talks should be moved to the Middle East soon after they start in Washington.

This is not the first time Israel has put stringent and selfish conditions in the way of the peace process. One is left with no choice but to truly believe that Israel's conditions are nothing more than a tactic to delay, and most likely sabotage, the entire peace process.

Israel knew when it set these conditions for attending the Washington talks that if the United States goes along with them, then the Arab parties will feel betrayed and would possibly even refuse to attend according to Israeli conditions. At the same time, because Israel did not reject the talks outright but proposed that they be delayed a few more days to better prepare itself, it was probably assuming that the world will understand its position and not hold it responsible for any negative consequences.

Israel's complaints were never convincing, not even to its foremost ally and protector, the United States. These new positions and complaints are also not convincing. The date is not very critical since Israel knew the talks were coming and therefore should have been prepared for them. Even Dec. 4 was later than what all the parties realistically were anticipating, as the expected date was the end of November.

As for communication between the delegation and decision makers in the home country, satellite technology should render the excuse that Washington is too far away from the Middle East as unacceptable.

Israel clearly wants to run the show. It is not even happy with the way the United States is doing it. And since it chose to confront the U.S., it is trying to send messages that Israel, and only Israel, will determine the course and outcome of the current peace process. This is obvious not only in the way Israel is approaching the logistics, but the substance of the process.

The battle of wills should not serve as a distraction from the real course of the peace process and from its goal. Israel always looks for and invents side issues for the purpose of distraction and deflation of enthusiasm. The peace process has come this far and millions of people have built hope on what has been accomplished so far. They should not be disappointed.

'Encouraging' U.S. Stance Hailed

PM0212160991 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Nov 91 p 11

[Editorial: "An Encouraging U.S. Stance"]

[Text] The United States has rejected the Israeli Government's request for a five-day postponement of the bilateral negotiations and insisted that the talks should be held 4 December. The State Department spokeswoman said that any change would have to be agreed by all parties and cannot be a result of a position taken by just one party.

That U.S. rejection provides evidence of the U.S. Administration's determination to put an end to Israeli dithering and procrastination. It also confirms the U.S. Administration's seriousness in its endeavor to ensure the success of the peace efforts on the basis of the U.S. concept.

Israel wanted the negotiations to be held in the Arab region, alternating between occupied Jerusalem and such Arab capitals as Damascus, Amman, and Cairo, but the U.S. Administration was not fooled by that ploy, which would have meant an early normalization of relations without the achievement of real progress on the main issues such as withdrawal from the occupied territories and a halt to settlement activity.

Washington's firm rejection of Israel's call for the postponement of the negotiations was a second slap in the face for Yitzhaq Shamir's government, which sought to test the U.S. Administration's seriousness and resolve regarding the date and venue of the negotiations.

Events of the past 24 hours have thus demonstrated the failure of the traditonal Israeli method of imposing Israel's will on the White House through exploitation of its strong influence in Congress. It now has no alternative but to realize its real size and to act as a small and subservient state accepting its true master's decisions without any argument.

It must be pointed out here that this hard-line U.S. attitude toward Israel would not have succeeded had it not been for the clever Arab flexibility reflected in the prompt response to the invitation to bilateral talks in Washington on the set date, albeit with some reservations.

That intelligent Arab move would not have materialized and would not have been fruitful had it not been for that increasing coordination among the main Arab parties to the peace process, namely Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO.

The fact which Israel is trying not to accept is that times change rapidly and that Arab diplomacy has matured because Arab political thinking, approach, and methods have matured. By that we mean that Arab thinking is no longer naively intransigent. It is now skillful and flexible, based on minds that know the Western mentality and know how to deal with it, minds that understand the Israeli Government's mentality and mechanism. That explains the brilliant Arab success and the dismal Israeli failure in the first confrontation at the Madrid conference.

Caution, however, is necessary in all circumstances. One fears that Washington might try to please Israel by giving it concessions at the negotiating table. This does not mean that we should not welcome that firm U.S. stance against Israeli procrastination.

*Paper Reports U.S.-PLO Dialogue To Resume

92P40065A Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 4 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[Text] AL-MANAR confirms that the PLO will participate officially and directly in the peace talks during the next few rounds, and that Washington made a promise to this effect to the PLO on the eve of the peace conference in Madrid on the 30th of last month, provided that the dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO resumes at the end of this month in the Egyptian capital.

AL-MANAR has learned that the Israeli leadership was convinced by Washington of the benefits of holding open and direct talks with the PLO in the near future, after having secret negotiations with the PLO thrust upon it. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Morocco played a significant role in bringing about this "development." AL-MANAR has also learned that, to this end, an emissary from the PLO will arrive in the U.S. capital soon to conduct unpublicized talks with American experts and officials.

This development, which the U.S. administration communicated to Israel, explains the fact that the Israeli delegation, headed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, did not withdraw at the opening of the conference in Madrid when Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, referred to the PLO as the representative and leader of the Palestinian people.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had mentioned to an Arab official at the beginning of his trip that, if the peace process did not begin, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir would ask the U.S., in the second round, to negotiate with PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat [as published].

Changes in Delegation Membership

On another subject, AL-MANAR has learned that a change may occur in the makeup of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, wherein some of them would be replaced, and others would be added, in order to strengthen its capabilities in a sound manner.

AL-MANAR confirms that many members of the negotiating and advisory delegations were asked to return to the occupied territories, while others, such as journalists, were asked to depart Spain by this Monday and return, because their expenses would not be covered if they prolonged their stay. It is reported that some of them traveled to Madrid at their own expense, and others remained in the Jordanian capital.

Algeria

President Receives Libyan, Iraqi Envoys 3 Dec

LD0312224291 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] We report on two meetings with President Chadli Bendjedid today. The first was with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn al-Khudayr, which took place in the presence of our Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi and the ambassadors of the two countries. The discussion focused on bilateral relations and Arab and international conditions. The Iraqi foreign minister, who delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Chadli Bendjedid, spoke after the meeting to television correspondent Mohamed Belachia about the contents of his talks with the president.

[Begin recording] [Belachia] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, after your reception by His Excellency President Bendjedid, what are the topics that you discussed, and what are your comments on this meeting?

[Al-Khudayr] A meeting between Iraq and Algeria is always a meeting for the [Arab] nation's interest and for the interest of the two peoples, the Algerians and the Iraqis. It is a crucial meeting which is consolidated day after day. On my visit this time, I carry a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Chadli Bendjedid. This message is a fraternal one from Iraq to Algeria, its president, government, and people, expressing the gratitude of the Iraqi leadership and people for Algeria's stands and support and the for support of the Algerian people for its fraternal Iraqi people, and also President Saddam Husayn's thanks and indebtedness to his brother President Chadli Bendjedid for his efforts to reduce the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the economic blockade. I also received a message of good wishes and insistence on joint action from President Bendjedid to his brother President Saddam. [end recording]

Current Arab concerns, especially Maghreban ones, were raised today in the president's second meeting, which he held with Ibrahim al-Bakr, the Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and the Interior. During this meeting, which was attended by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi and the ambassadors of the two countries, the Libyan envoy delivered a message to the president from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. On his exit from the president's office, Ibrahim al-Bakr spoke to Mohamed Belachia:

[Begin al-Bakr recording] Our meeting today was... [changes thought] I was carrying a verbal message to His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and we were honored that this meeting was attended by Mr. Lakhdar [Brahimi], the foreign minister. I confirm here that this meeting was positive and good and that it took place within the context of the fraternal relationships between the two countries and the current new international developments, a matter that serves the two countries and the Arab nation. [Word indistinct] Thank you. [end recording]

FIS Sets Conditions for Electoral Participation

LD0312230991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Excerpts] In the political arena, one day separates us from the date of the beginning of the election campaign of the political tendencies. Just before this date, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] still has not announced its final decision regarding its participation or boycott. The FIS provisional leadership calls for clearing the political atmosphere as a condition for taking part in the elections by releasing the imprisoned cheikhs [FIS leaders], the reinstatement of fired workers following last June's political strike, and the compensation of the victims of last June's incidents. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hachani [FIS provisional leader] emphasized that he has not received any reply to his message addressed to the interior minister. It is worth noting that he has repeatedly threatened to boycott the elections and to call on the people to boycott them.

As for Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, a boycott of the elections by one party will have no effect on the legitimacy of the upcoming National People's Assembly because the significance, as he put it, will lie in the number of those who vote. The prime minister added that a catastrophe will occur if one party imposes its dictates by force. For those who doubt the carrying out of the elections as scheduled on 26 December, Mr. Ghozali stated that the government has done and will continue to do everything so that the elections will take place before the end of this year.

The prime minister's only concern lies in convincing the Algerian people of the need to vote, which is considered the only way to exercise real authority. President Chadli Bendjedid stated on 1 November that the elections will take place on schedule as planned.

Interior Minister Reacts to Guemar Border Attack

LD0312223291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The first official reaction to the tragic incidents at Guemar comes from Larbi Belkheir, minister of interior and local authorities, who announced today that we will face any repetition of an incident like the El Oued one and that we will not let the situation rot, in the framework of preparing a stable atmosphere for a normal election campaign. Belkheir told today's evening edition of HORIZONS that investigations into the El Oued and Kouba incidents are under way and that anything new will be published.

As for some parties opposing the bill on the National People's Army helping to safeguard public security, the interior minister affirmed that that bill responds to a

national demand and has the approval of the citizens. Belkheir also said: We do not aim to restrict individual and collective freedoms through it; we do aim to protect the democratic process.

Islamic Front Official Denies Role

LD0312223891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] We return again to the events at Guemar, El Oued Province: Cheikh Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the Provisional Executive Bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front, today denied any link between his party and these armed incidents in the south. He affirmed in a statement to today's edition of the independent daily LE SOIR D'ALGERIE that his party has no link with this kind of practice.

Hachani added: The regime is the only one responsible for this unstable atmosphere, which not only encourages such practices but also provides the reasons for their appearance. He pointed out that the noncleansing of the political atmosphere encouraged such actions, which create an unstable atmosphere in the circles of the people and distance them from any form of openness.

Egypt

Third Phase of Talks Reportedly Set for Moscow

NC0312114991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that the multilateral talks, representing the third phase of the Middle East peace conference, will begin in Moscow on 17 December.

Arab diplomatic sources have stated that the talks were not going to be held in Moscow for purely technical reasons and because of the huge cost of accommodating the 32 delegations, but it was later decided to hold the talks in Moscow because the Soviet Union is a cosponsor of the conference and the United States will share part of the expenses.

In addition to Israel and the Arab parties concerned, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, the Arab Maghreb Union states, the European Community, Turkey, Japan, and Canada will participate in the conference, which will be held under cosponshorship of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and India are expected to take part in a later phase of the Middle East peace conference, which will discuss regional issues, such as disarmament and a ban on weapons of mass destruction. Egypt has in fact submitted a plan in this respect, the broad aspects of which are being discussed with the United States.

The conference will discuss issues of development and cooperation in the region in accordance with a European plan. It will also discuss an economic plan similar to the Marshall Plan. The conference will also discuss water and environmental issues.

Musa Confers With Visiting Sudanese Official

NC3011145391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state, held talks today with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. After the meeting, he stated that agreement has been reached to halt the media campaigns between the two countries.

The Sudanese minister said he is carrying a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, to President Husni Mubarak that includes an invitation for him to attend Sudan's Independence Day celebrations.

The Sudanese minister of state said his country can never be a source of danger to fraternal Egypt. He denied that Sudan is playing host to Egyptian extremists, noting that he explained this to Egyptian officials.

He added that Sudan is perfectly willing to prevent any threat to the Nile waters and understands the vital importance of this resource. He explained that there is agreement over Egyptian and Sudanese sharing of Nile waters in accordance with the agreements between the two countries.

Isma'il emphasized that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are improving. He said work is under way to further these relations and eliminate the obstacles facing them. He noted that there were several proposals agreed upon during his talks with Foreign Minister Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

The Sudanese minister said he will submit these proposals to the Sudanese Government for discussion. He expressed the conviction that the climate now is suitable for bilateral relations to move forward and assume their normal course.

Isma'il said he will convey a message from Major General al-Zubayr Salih, Sudanese deputy prime minister, to Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation and secretary general of the National Democratic Party.

UK's Hogg Arrives in Cairo 3 Dec

NC0412073491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Douglas Hogg, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening from London on an official visit to Egypt lasting several days, during which President Mubarak will receive him.

During his visit to Egypt, the British minister also will hold talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on the peace process in the Middle East and Britain's role in supporting this process in light of the stands of the parties involved.

Dailies Denounce Israel's Refusal To Join Talks

NC0112074291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH denounced the Shamir government's intransigent position on the peace process in the Middle East and its rejection of the date set by the United States for the resumption of bilateral talks in Washington on 4 December. AL-AKHBAR said that the U.S. State Department's spokeswoman was right when she described the Israeli rejection as "childish," especially since the 4 December date set for the resumption of the bilateral talks was declared two weeks in advance. Israel cannot say that Washington is an unsuitable venue. The paper stressed that Shamir was unsuccessful in declaring his rejection of the date because he provided compelling proof of his sense that the Israeli position in the peace talks is weak. The paper concluded that Shamir has shown his bankruptcy and failure to find pretexts to evade these talks, the outcome of which Israel already knows since it has used all its cards and all its attempts to foil the peace process, which it sees as a threat, have failed. Shamir will not find a single state supporting his position.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said that since the Israeli Government continues to adhere to total intransigence and rejection, the Arab parties should make use of Egypt's negotiating experience. Egypt exercised patience and insisted on its just and logical demands using all means of pressure until it obtained all its rights. The paper called on the superpowers that sponsored the Madrid peace conference to continue their vital role to advance the peace process despite Israel's obdurate policy. The paper said that since these powers succeeded in the test of intentions in Madrid, they should succeed in the test of wills in the forthcoming stage.

Libya

Two Accused of Pan Am Bombing Arrested

NC0412110191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Yusuf al-Dabri, new chief of the Libyan intelligence service, has disclosed that the two Libyans whom the U.S. and British authorities have accused of being involved in the bombing of a Pan Am plane in 1988 have been arrested. He said that the judge who ordered their detention began to investigate them on Monday.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, he said: We cannot breach Libyan law and hand these two persons over if they are requested to stand trial before a Scottish court. He emphasized that there is no provision in international law forcing a country to hand over its citizens for investigation in another country.

He noted that Libya has proposed to the United States and Britain all legal options in this matter, and that Libya has addressed an invitation to the judges concerned in the two countries to visit Libya and investigate these two people, but it has not received any reply.

Sudan

Coup Leaders Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

NC0412062091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2219 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 3 Dec (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, today issued an order sentencing 10 civilians and military men to life imprisonment for their involvement in the coup attempt against the National Salvation Revolution last August.

The military court had issued death sentences against the 10, which Lt. Gen. al-Bashir decreased to life imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Libyan Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN2611134791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Manama, 26 Nov (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Armed Forces, left Manama for Abu Dhabi today following a short visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

During the visit, the Libyan envoy conveyed a written message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning current Arab developments, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual interest.

Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah saw the Libyan envoy off upon his departure.

Kuwait

UN Representative Protests Iraqi 'Violations'

NC0412112991 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Kuwaiti UN Permanent Representative Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hasan yesterday delivered two protest notes to the UN Security Council chairman dealing with the border issue and the Kuwaiti prisoners whom the Iraqi regime still holds.

In his first protest note, Abu-al-Hasan said the Iraqi regime continues to violate its commitment to facilitate the work of the UN Border Supervision Committee. He indicated that Kuwait has lodged an official protest against the Iraqi violations with the committee's commander.

Abu-al-Hasan said that the Iraqi regime refused to take part in the work of the Border Demarcation Committee's reconnaissance team, which visited the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq at the end of November.

In his second protest note, Abu-al-Hasan indicated that the Baghdad regime continues to ignore the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687. The Baghdad regime not only has refrained from immediately releasing all prisoners, including Kuwaitis and other nationals, but it also has prevented the quarters concerned from visiting these prisoners. It also has not allowed the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the prisoners' plight.

Official Says Iraq Holds Over 2,000 Prisoners

NC3011134491 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Nov 30 (AFP)—Iraq still holds more than 2,000 prisoners, nine months after the end of the Gulf war, a visiting Kuwaiti official told reporters in this southern Gulf emirate.

Nasir al-Tamimi, a member of his country's committee on POWs, said late Friday that 2,101 prisoners were still held and 1,000 were missing. But he did not specify the number of Kuwaitis among the POWs and the missing.

He charged that Iraq kept moving Kuwaiti and other POWs deliberately to mislead the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The prisoners are transferred from one place to another as soon as they are visited by the Red Cross," he said. "It is becoming increasingly difficult for international humanitarian organisations to keep track of these prisoners."

Al-Tamimi added that "the names of the POWs do not tally with the names supplied by the Iraqi Government."

The Kuwaiti Government is meanwhile paying 500 dinars (1,350 dollars) per month to the family of each married Kuwaiti POW and 300 dinars (810 dollars) for each unmarried prisoner, he said.

On Tuesday, a group of 50 people returned to Kuwait from Iraq, including 36 Kuwaiti civilians and one non-Kuwaiti POW. Another 118 people were repatriated on October 14.

Baghdad said in October that it was holding 3,576 Kuwaitis registered with the ICRC, while Kuwait claimed only 2,242 prisoners and said the rest were not Kuwaitis although they had been residents of the emirate.

Defense Minister Discusses Security Situation

PM2211164491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Nov 91 p 3

[Badr al-Rababah report: "Defense Minister Confirms 70 Percent of Security Forces and Army Members of Unspecified Nationality; We Deliberately Kept Mines in North To Prevent Iraqi Infiltration"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has said that the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq must be carried out in accordance with the 1932 agreement. These borders, he said, have been divided into two parts, one defended by the Kuwaiti forces and the other by the "Peninsula Shield" Gulf forces.

In a lecture delivered the day before yesterday at the Kuwaiti Society for Specialized Studies and Research, he

said that Kuwait deliberately kept the mines and explosives planted by the Iraqi occupation forces in northern Kuwait as they were, intending this as a "trap" to prevent infiltration into Kuwait. He also confirmed that some 70 percent of the members of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces of the Defense and Interior Ministries are of unspecified nationality.

The defense minister praised the heroism of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces at the beginning of the barbaric Iraqi invasion. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that "the attitude of some of the communities who lived in Kuwait was disgraceful. They collaborated with the occupation army and committed acts that no logic or religion can justify. After the liberation they were brought to trial in accordance with terms laid down by the Red Cross. According to the latest count two weeks ago, there are now 80,000 members of that community [as published] living in Kuwait."

He added: "With our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, we demarcated and divided our borders with Iraq into two parts, one attached to the Kuwaiti Army and the other attached to the 'Peninsula Shield' forces, in order to control and end any infiltration by Iraqi forces into our territory on the pretext of gathering arms left behind after their withdrawal. Our valiant armed forces' performance in repulsing the aggressors against Bubiyan Island was something that the Kuwaiti Army can be proud of." [passage omitted]

The defense minister confirmed that "there is still a fifth column in Kuwait which is trying to divide the people through rumors which unfortunately some people believe. We are trying, as far as possible, to end these rumors initiated by the Iraqi enemy. I heard from many people in Kuwait that in its news bulletins the Iraqi regime was giving reports on the weather in the 19th governorate, meaning Kuwait, but when I investigated the matter I found it to be untrue. I have also heard that the Iraqi regime wanted to release the POW's but that Kuwait refused this. Is that true or reasonable? I do not consider our sisters, mothers, fathers, and children in Iraqi prisons to be POW's. They are hostages because they were taken from their homes and mosques. All these allegations are dirty lies fabricated by the Iraqi regime to destabilize security in our Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Referring to the security agreement with the United States designed to preserve peace in the Arab Gulf region, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim confirmed that it contains many secret provisions at the U.S. Government's request. He also said: We will sign an agreement with the United Kingdom. Consultations are under way for that purpose. France has also expressed a desire to conclude a defense agreement with Kuwait.

With regard to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, the defense minister said: "When the cease-fire was introduced the Security Council drew up the borders on the basis of the 1932 British map. That gives Kuwait some rights. The border area was divided into two parts, one demilitarized to a depth of five km inside Kuwait and 10 km inside Iraq. The Security Council guarantees the safety of that area against any Iraqi or Kuwaiti penetration." [passage omitted]

He then said that "the destruction inflicted on military installations amounted to 80 percent and in some cases even 100 percent. Not content with that, they stole all the equipment. The losses are estimated to total $3 billion. They even took the damaged equipment with them to Iraq."

As for the Damascus Declaration, he said it was only a security and defense agreement among a number of states and that in its general form it was the same as the agreement with the United States—that is, for the protection of the Arab Gulf region.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Salim also said that "the prevention of Iraqi infiltration operations is impossible no matter what forces, barriers, and fortifications we use. For example, take the United States, which has the best technology. It has been unable to prevent Mexicans' infiltration into its territory. We are doing our best to prevent the infiltration operations masterminded by the Iraqi regime, which uses its agents to infiltrate Kuwait. Armed forces personnel are working vigilantly day and night to deter the threat of infiltrators and to destroy them."

With regard to clearing the mines and whatever the occupation forces left beind, the defense minister said: "I commend the Kuwaiti Army's engineering corps for its steady work to clear these deadly objects planted by the invaders to destroy the Kuwaiti people. We have been accused by many citizens of failing somewhat, but I say there has been no failure. In wars, when there is a cease-fire, states always review their calculations. Kuwait sued Iraq for stealing its equipment, and a compensations committee was formed. Then Iraq began seeking compensation from Kuwait and the coalition states. That took a long time in UN lobbies. The Security Council then rejected Iraq'si demands. At the time we could not disclose the quantities of arms and ammunition that we moved and destroyed, because we feared that Iraq might ask for them back. Then later we disclosed on television the very great quantities of arms and ammunition. The defeated Iraqi Army came to Kuwait with 500,000 men and hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition and equipment. We have moved 11,000 tons of ammunition out of residential areas. From one school in the al-Sharq area we removed 17 truckloads of ammunition. That was a very dangerous process. Mines have no friends, and 84 people have died as a result of the mine-clearing process. The mines will remain a problem for a long time." [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Libyan Envoy, Bahraini Minister

NC2511111691 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] His highness the amir received at 1115 today the envoy of the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, general inspector of the Libyan Armed Forces. He handed his highness a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of amiri court affairs; Muhammad Darwish al-'Aradi, amiri court under secretary; Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, head of the amir's office; and the Libyan ambassador to Kuwait.

At 1230 today his highness received fraternal Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, who delivered to his highness a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Receives Libyan Envoy, Message

NC0412111791 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] At 1030 today the amir of Kuwait received Libyan envoy 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agricultural Reform and Land Reclamation, who handed his highness a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

UK Official Notes Iranian Ties, Lockerbie Issue

LD2411213891 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1903 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Nov (KUNA)—Patrick Fairweathers, deputy under secretary at the British Foreign and Commonweath Office, has declared that the draft defense agreement between Britain and the Commonwealth will be signed by the end of the year. Speaking at a news conference held here today at the British Embassy, the British official said that the draft defense agreement aims at bolstering military cooperation between Britain and Kuwait in the field of training and the exchange of visits. He refused, however, to reveal the various aspects of the agreement or give any more details.

With regard to the question of the Kuwaiti prisoners being detained by the Iraqi regime, the British official, who began a visit to Kuwait yesterday, said that his country will intensify its efforts to bring further pressure to bear on Iraq for the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners. Speaking about the Madrid conference for peace in the Middle East, Fairweathers said that Britain participated in the diplomatic efforts alongside the United States and the USSR, the cosponsers of the conference. He added that his country also played a major role in this regard within the framework of the European Community. On the release of British businessman Ian Richter, who was released in Baghdad yesterday in return for Britain's release of 70 million pounds sterling from the frozen Iraqi funds, Fairweathers said that this sum will be spent on humanitarian purposes in Iraq.

Speaking on Anglo-Iranian relations, the British official praised the role that Iran has been playing in securing the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon and said that this role reflects Tehran's desire to normalize relations with the West. He added: "We are happy to see hostages released and this will help to improve relations with Iran." As for the British accusations that Libya was involved in the 1988 blowing up of the American civilian aircraft, Fairweathers said that his country possesses categorical proof of Libya's linkage to the incident. He added, however, that the door was still open to "a positive Libyan response in this matter." He denied that military retaliation would be the next step if Libya were to fail to provide such a response.

Oman

Sultan Receives Messages From Libya, Iran

JN2511163491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1452 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Muscat, 25 Nov (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received a message today from Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was conveyed to Sultan Qabus by the Libyan president's envoy, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, who is currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus also received an oral message today from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message was conveyed by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati.

The Omani news agency, which reported the news, did not mention anything about the contents of the two messages.

Qatar

Libyan Envoy Conveys al-Qadhdhafi Message to Amir

JN2711123491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1112 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 27 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received an oral message on current Arab developments from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The message was conveyed by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council, inspector general of the armed forces, and the Libyan leader's envoy, when the amir received him today.

Plane Carrying Relief Aid Departs for USSR

JN0212183991 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Doha, Dec 2 (QNA)—The first aircraft carrying shipments of assistance and relief aid to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics left Doha International Airport today.

Another nine planes are to deliver food and supply shipments to the U.S.S.R.

United Arab Emirates

Ministry Criticizes 'Baseless' Sudanese Charges

JN3011185491 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[Text] Abu Dhabi—WAM—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has denied as absolutely baseless a report published by the Sudanese newspaper AL-MASIRAH on 24 November quoting Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul as saying that a group of Sudanese in the United Arab Emirates was arrested.

In a statement to WAM, the responsible source said that although it suffered from the Sudanese regime's behavior during the tyrannical Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and from the continuation of those stands even after the liberation of fraternal Kuwait—stands which have exposed the drawbacks of that regime—the United Arab Emirates, which takes pride in being a state of security and safety for its citizens and those residing in it, including the Sudanese community, does not blame people for the mistakes that their regimes commit, as its principles, values, and noble manners prevent it from such actions.

The responsible Foreign Ministry source added: "The United Arab Emirates also asserts that maintaining its security and stability is the core of its policy and that it will not hesitate to take appropriate measures against those who breach the existing regulations and laws of the state."

The source also said: "It is really regrettable that the United Arab Emirates is attacked whenever the current Sudanese regime faces a crisis, and this method will fail to stir the honorable Sudanese against our country, despite that regime's desperate attempts. We will not allow that regime's organs to harm these citizens' rights and honor as long as they reside in this state."

The source concluded: While the United Arab Emirates considers such statements imbalanced and irresponsible, it believes that they will not serve relations between the two countries. On the contrary, they will harm these relations and will bring them to a deadlock.

Libyan Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN0312185891 Manama WAKH in English 1503 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 3 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the current Arab situation, in light of the continuous consultations between the two leaders.

The message was delivered by Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, Libya's secretary for Arab Maghreb Union affairs, during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid last night.

[Manama WAKH in English at 1630 GMT on 3 December reports the Libyan envoy's departure from Abu Dhabi on 3 December]

Yemen

Salih Receives U.S. Invitation to Peace Talks

JN2711173391 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received U.S. Ambassador to Sanaa Arthur Hughes, who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on peace moves and efforts in the region. The message included an invitation for Yemen to participate in multilateral talks on resolving regional issues.

The brother chairman asked the ambassador to convey a response asserting that this issue will be discussed by the country's executive and constitutional institutions. In light of this, the appropriate decision will be made regarding our country's participation in the regional peace negotiations, which are cosponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani.

Council Discusses Attendance

JN0212175391 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani attended. The council discussed topics on its agenda as well as developments in the national, Arab, and international arenas.

The council then discussed the U.S. and Soviet invitations to Yemen to attend the multilateral negotiations on regional issues, within the current efforts to bring about

peace in the region. The council referred the two invitations to the government to complete necessary measures for our country to participate in negotiations to bring about peace in the region.

Attendance Approved; Further Debate

JN0312125991 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting this morning headed by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas during which it became acquainted with the invitation extended to our country from the United States and the Soviet Union to the multilateral negotiations to discuss the regional issues relating to the negotiations to realize comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Extensive deliberations took place, following which the council unanimously approved the principle of attending, based on the related international legitimacy resolutions on whose basis the Madrid negotiations were held from 30 October to 1 November.

Because the government's approval of the principle of attending the multilateral peace negotiations requires national consensus and support from the legislative authority, the council decided to ask the Presidential Council to call for an extraordinary session of the Council of Representatives to hold general discussions on the subject in order to reach a unified decision.

Terrorist Carlos 'Probably' in Yemen

AU2811125091 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Paris, Nov 28 (AFP)—Syria in September expelled the terrorist Carlos, one of the most wanted men on earth, and he is probably now in Yemen after Libya refused to have him, the French daily LIBERATION reported Thursday [28 November].

It said Damascus had, at around the same time, tried to unload on Libya another wanted terrorist, Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, but he too was sent back.

The daily said Carlos, whose real name is Ilyich Ramirez Sanchez, was put on a Syrian airliner to Tripoli on September 21, accompanied by his mother, his wife, former Red Army Faction militant Magdalena Kopp, their two children and "another terrorist, 'Hans', in fact Weinrich, a former member of the Baader-Meinhof Gang."

Carlos and his family had Yemeni diplomatic passports and his mother a Moroccan one, LIBERATION said.

It said Libyan officials went through the group's luggage and found two Beretta handguns, two hand grenades, ammunition, jewelry and one million dollars in cash.

Carlos, whose passport identified him as Aden-born diplomat Naqi Abu-Bakr Ahmad, 43, explained that he and his family were "Palestinians expelled by Syria who want to settle in Tripoli."

They were put back on the same plane to Damascus, from where they were presumably sent on to Yemen, the independent leftist daily said.

The Venezuelan-born Carlos—also known at various times as the Jackal, Carlos Andres Martinez-Torres, Hector Lugo Dupont, Glenn Gebhard, Cenon Marie Clark, Adolf Jose Muller Bernal and Ahmad Adil Fawaz—has been on Western wanted lists for more than 15 years. His first known action was a 1974 grenade attack on Paris's Saint-Germain-des-Pres Drugstore, which left two dead.

He fired a rocket at an Israeli El-Al airliner at Orly airport in January 1975—but missed and hit a Yugoslav plane instead.

He had a close call in June 1975, when French intelligence agents, accompanied by an Arab informer, showed up at his Paris home, but Carlos blasted his way out, killing the informer and an agent. He gained international notoriety later the same year when he raided a meeting in Vienna of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, taking 76 people, including 12 oil ministers, hostage for 36 hours before making his escape, leaving a trail of three dead and eight wounded.

LIBERATION said Carlos collaborated with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in anti-French actions, including a car bomb on French military headquarters in Beirut, which killed 58 people. His last "signed" operation, LIBERATION said, was a bomb attack on the French Cultural Center in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli. "He has since been living in semi-retirement, but advising on occasion a number of groups and (intelligence) services in the Middle East," it said.

Born to a family of upper-class Venezuelan communists, Carlos studied at Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University—from where he was expelled—then worked with various Palestinian groups, starting with the late Wadi Haddad's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He maintained close ties with terrorist groups outside the region, including West Germany's Baader-Meinhof Gang, the Japanese Red Army and was known to have ties with East European intelligence services.

With U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks under way, LIBERATION said, "Damascus must furnish evidence of its new international respectability. Carlos' expulsion was one," as was the attempt to get rid of Jibril, it said.

The United States and Britain have accused Libyan intelligence of blowing up a Pan Am jumbo jet that crashed into the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, and France for a silmilar bombing of a UTA airliner in September 1989, which killed a total of 440 people.

'Responsible Source' Denies Presence

JN0212180991 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior and Security Ministry has told SABA' that reports which some Arab and foreign newspapers have published, quoting the French newspaper LIBERATION, saying that the terrorist Carlos took refuge in the Republic of Yemen, are fabricated and are absolutely unfounded. The source asserted that Yemen condemns and renounces terrorism and violence and will never agree to its territories being a refuge for any terrorist.

Libyan Official Delivers Message to Salih

JN2911065191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received brother Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, attended the meeting.

The Libyan official delivered to the brother president a letter from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The letter dealt with the threats being made against the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, as well as issues and developments of interest to the Arab nation.

During the meeting, discussions centered on fraternal bilateral relations, current issues and developments in the Arab arena, and ways to tighten Arab ranks by coordinating the efforts being undertaken by the two countries to restore Arab solidarity among the brothers in a manner that will enhance the Arab nation's ability to confront challenges.

The brother president voiced our country's denunciation of the threats against fraternal Libya's security, sovereignty, and independence.

Brother Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Sanaa yesterday evening at the end of a short visit to our country. During his stay, he delivered a message to brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, concerning the recent threats made against Libya by the United States and some European countries. [passage omitted]

Council Voices Concern Over 'Threats' to Libya

JN2811190291 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Council of Representatives today concluded the third session of its second biannual term for 1991, which covered the period 9-28 November 1991, under the chairmanship of Council of Representatives Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man.

At the conclusion of its working sessions, the council hailed the 24th anniversary of the evacuation of the last colonial troops from our country on 30 November 1967, and the second anniversary of the signing of the unity agreement, which took place on 30 November 1989. The council expressed its heartfelt congratulations to the popular masses on these two great occasions, urging them to continue their fruitful and productive work and demonstrate a strong resolve to bolster our country's democratic course and reinforce the process of comprehensive construction and reforms to help forge further victories and bright occasions in contemporary Yemeni history.

During this period's sessions, the Council of Representatives reviewed a number of important Arab and international issues. While in the course of debating the developments of these issues, the council expressed its condemnation and rejection of the Israeli Knesset resolution deeming the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as Israeli territory. Furthermore, the council condemned the continued building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the fabricated pretexts advanced by the Zionist entity to obstruct the peace process, which is aimed at restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Additionally, the council voiced concern over the threats to which the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah has been exposed. It paid tribute to the Libyan position, which calls for applying reason and common sense and also for seeking arbitration by legitimate international bodies. The council expressed the solidarity of the Yemeni people and the fraternal Libyan people.

Moreover, the Council of Representatives appealed to parliaments and parliamentary groups in all Arab, Islamic, and friendly states to strive to lift the economic blockade which continues to be imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people and which has caused the death of hundreds of children, elderly people, and women due to shortages of food, medicines, and medical requirements. [passage omitted]

Spokesman on Nonparticipation in ICO Meeting

JN0412114191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1106 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—Iraq has decided not to participate in the Islamic summit meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], due to start in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on 9 December.

An official spokesman for the Iraqi Government made a statement today saying: Saudi Arabia and a group of its mercenary followers and the ICO secretary general are preparing to turn the meeting into a theater to peddle suspect U.S. policies against Iraq.

The spokesman also asserted that Iraq's decision is a protest against this odious conduct that violates the rules and traditions of the ICO's activity and contradicts the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity.

The spokesman added: Since it joined the ICO, Iraq has always been eager to contribute sincerely and effectively to all its activities and meetings on all levels as an expression of its firm belief in the importance of entrenching joint action among Islamic states; protecting their interests; championing their just causes, particularly the struggle of the Palestinian people; and defending Muslim holy shrines, especially since the establishment of the ICO was a response to what happened in 1965 [date as received] when the Zionist entity burned the al-Aqsa Mosque, the first direction toward which Muslims face in prayer and the third holiest shrine.

The spokesman went on to say: It is really regrettable to confirm that since the start of the U.S.-Western-Zionist aggression against Iraq, Saudi Arabia and some of its mercenary followers should resort to employing the ICO as a tool to peddle the imperialistic-Western-Zionist scheme against Iraq in clear violation of, and challenge to the teachings of the true Islamic religion and the interests of Islamic states. These people have gone too far, to a degree we never imagined. For, at the 20th conference of the ICO foreign ministers, which was held in Istanbul last August, the rulers of Saudi Arabia and some mercenaries deliberately sought to peddle an odious draft resolution calling for maintaining the unjust, immoral economic blockade on Iraq and its Muslim people.

The spokesman added: We have confirmed that the temptations of the former Turkish prime minister were the main reason behind peddling that odious resolution, for the chairman of the conference did not allow dissenting voices to express their position. In fact, the presidency of the conference adopted an unusual procedure that contradicted the ICO's method of operation in order to skip over the issue and hastened to peddle the draft resolution on the pretext that there are similar views. This was absolutely not true at the meeting since 19 delegations refused to adopt the draft resolution or to agree to it despite the feverish efforts made by Saudi Arabia. In addition, four delegations spoke strongly against the draft resolution; these were Palestine, Libya, Gabon, and Iraq. Many delegations also demanded lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq in the official speeches.

The spokesman explained that ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Gabid adopted a stand that is subservient to the tendentious Saudi stand, which is linked to the U.S. stand, when he submitted a report full of falsehoods and slander against Iraq at the ICO foreign ministers annual coordination meeting. This meeting was held in New York on 1 October 1991 on the sidelines of the 46th UN General Assembly session. Although the representative of the rulers of Kuwait was the only speaker to support the report, the General Secretariat issued a final communique one week after the conclusion of the meeting containing the following sentence: The meeting voices its deep concern vis-a-vis Iraq's refusal to comply with international legitimacy. This shows that the General Secretariat has not been honest in portraying the reality of what took place at the meeting and that it has become a tool that implements Saudi policy, which is dictated by the United States and its allies.

The spokesman said: Iraq had hoped that the sixth Islamic summit would be an opportunity to revise this odious stand and to abide by the principles of Islamic brotherhood on which the ICO has been established, and to exercise justice and fairness in the approach toward a serious issue such as the unjust economic blockade that is imposed on it. It is very regrettable that we note signs which irrefutably show the continuation of the tendentious and hostile course toward Iraq. The draft agenda of the ICO summit that was prepared by the general secretariat contains a provision which has been formulated in a language that is hostile to Iraq. This constitutes a judgment in advance and shows bad intentions, which conflict with the rules on the preparations for conferences, not to mention that it also contradicts the principles of Islamic shari'a, which the ICO is supposed to respect and by which it should abide. The rules of protocol concerning the dispatch of invitations to all the Islamic summits were not respected this time. Senegal in its capacity as the host country did not address an official invitation to Iraq through a special envoy with a letter containing the Senegalese president's invitation to the Iraqi president. While they had sent envoys to the heads of states of the countries in the region for this purpose, the Senegalese authorities were content to hand the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Dakar the Senegalese president's invitation.

The official spokesman added: All this makes us deduce that Saudi Arabia and a group of its mercenary followers and the ICO secretary general are preparing to turn the meeting into a theater to peddle suspect U.S. policies against Iraq. From this premise, Iraq has decided not to participate in that meeting in protest against this odious conduct that violates the working rules of the ICO and that conflicts with the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity.

The spokesman emphasised that Iraq holds the Islamic countries which will participate in this summit responsbile before history, Almighty God, and the Muslim people and asks them to adopt the stand that Islamic shari'a dictates on them to adopt toward the human suffering of the Iraqi children, women, and elderly as a result of the unjust aggression that the United States and its allies had led under cover of the false international legitimacy which seeks to destroy Iraq—people, civilization, and huge potentials, which has been and remains in the service of Islam and the Muslims.

'Udayy Discusses War 'Facts,' Saddam's Decisions

JN0312161091 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 3

[By Basim Sakkijha]

[Excerpts] As the date for the Madrid conference was approaching, we traveled to Baghdad in a subconscious attempt to assert that we share the same life, and that what we had supported last year was neither a whim nor the last cry. [passage omitted]

Among the senior officials whom we met in Baghdad was 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, BABIL editor in chief. He looks like his father and has the same manner of speech. Most important, his ideas are almost a copy of his father's. Therefore, listening to 'Udayy acquires special importance, especially at this particular time so as to know what has really happened.

Although what was said was not for publication, however, as journalists, we deem the people's right to know as a sacred objective. Therefore, we publish what we deem as unharmful at the current stage, and we withhold information that can be classified as confidential.

'Udayy said: It takes a very long time to talk about what happened, and it would be unwise to publish most of it. This is because the time for declaring such information will come, and you will be surprised to see that the Americans will declare the facts when their elections come. Therefore, I will be brief.

He added: Our losses, as a result of the sectarian sedition, were many times our losses that resulted from the air and land battles. It is these losses that led to the speedy end of the war.

Undoubtedly, the sedition was supported by the Iranians and the Americans, who dropped weapons from helicopters that landed at an airport near al-Nasiriyah.

He continued: The story of their arrival in al-Nasiriyah is as follows: They landed troops at an airport that had been built by my late uncle, 'Adnan Khayrallah, during the war with Iran. That landing did not have any effect on the battles. Therefore, my father decided that they should not be engaged. Moreover, many bedouins who live in the area engaged the American troops with light weapons and killed some of them. Thus, orders were issued not to engage the U.S. troops, because their presence did not affect the course of military operations.

'Udayy added: There was U.S. coordination with Iran. U.S. planes at that airport dropped large quantities of weapons for the rebels as siib as Iran created sedition in the south. This worsened the situation and compelled our forces to pay attention to the internal situation.

American troops landed, but the Iraqi Army destroyed them. American divisions were actually besieged on the night of the cease-fire, but the siege was lifted under military agreements reached in Safwan.

Here, we asked him why he does not publish this information to raise morale.

He said: There are military agreements. However, you will hear soon from the United States itself. You will learn about the actual numbers of captives from the allied forces.

Regarding issues being questioned by Arab citizens, 'Udayy said: I asked my father about three matters pertaining to what happened. They are:

1. Why did our forces not advance to the eastern region and occupy oil fields there, which would have prevented the Americans from striking those forces?
2. Why did we not attack the vanguards of the American forces when they were only about 50,000 soldiers, and when we were able to inflict heavy losses on them?
3. Why did we not keep the guests [Western hostages] to prevent major U.S. strikes?

My father's reply was:

1. We are not an occupying force, the eastern region is not our territory, it is Saudi, and we have no ambitions in its territory.
2. We did not want to appear as if we were a brutal force striking the American forces, which announced that they wanted to defend Saudi Arabia.
3. Keeping the guests would have portrayed us as a brutal force, and we responded to the demands of those who were supporting us by freeing the guests.

Regarding the current Iraqi position, he said:

Our position has not and will never change. My father has sown the seed, whose fruit we will see in the future, because the Arab people are with us and will not accept injustice. We are optimistic about the future, and our internal problems will be solved, God willing. Now it is the duty of the Arab brothers to break the siege around us.

Al-Zubaydi at Agricultural Exhibition Opening

JN0312155091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has affirmed that colonialist countries have used the critical importance of

food in people's lives and future as a weapon, and pursued policies in this regard aimed at robbing people of their will and political decisionmaking to realize their hostile purposes and objectives.

In a speech delivered at the inaugural session of the seventh scientific conference sponsored by agricultural engineers today, al-Zubaydi added: The unfair economic blockade imposed on Iraq is a living and an unmistakably clear example that testifies to this fact.

Al-Zubaydi went on to say: The United States and its allies used, under the guise of international legitimacy, the food issue to fight the Iraqi people, starve them, and deny them access to medicine in contravention of all international norms and laws, and in defiance of religious values and human rights.

Afterward, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi opened the first agricultural exhibition organized by the Association of Iraqi Agricultural Engineers at the Babylon Hall in the al-Mansur Melia Hotel.

The agricultural exhibition, in which more than 50 Iraqi, Arab, and foreign companies took part, contains various samples of food industry products, agricultural products, and requirements for animal production as well.

The inauguration of the seventh scientific conference and the first agricultural exhibition was attended by some chiefs of professional and mass organizations in Iraq.

Mubarak Explanation of U.S. Logic 'Ridiculed'

JN0412111791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has ridiculed the statement made by Husni Mubarak, president of the Egyptian regime, in which he rules out an aggression against Libya by the Bush administration because this administration, as Mubarak said, is "reasonable".

Commenting on statements made by the president of the Egyptian regime to the Egyptian newspaper MAYU, the paper says that Mubarak did not give an explanation or an analysis of the situation between Washington and fraternal Libya, although he has been a president for more than a decade and is fully conversant with all facts. Since all Mubarak knows about politics is the principle of "give" and "give and take" which he developed into "take, take, take, and give but a scarce amount", he has depended on the "reason" of the Bush administration. The paper wonders what does Mubarak know about this "reason!"

It adds: Had Mubarak not hastened to make offhand statements as usual, he would have read another report published the same day his "reasonable" statement was published. The report says that Bush refused to apologize to Japan for what the Truman administration did to Hiroshima and Nagasaki when it decided to drop nuclear bombs on them in 1945, noting that Bush was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force [as received] at the time, and that the act led to human, economic, and environmental disasters which the world is still suffering from until today.

The paper goes on to say: Why does Mubarak not ask his master Bush according to what logic does he refuse to apologize for global catastrophes, since it is simply an apology that would not restore things to what they were before that ugly crime was committed against humanity at large?

The paper adds: Let us go back to our Arab arena, which is very close to Mubarak, since Mubarak is perhaps closer to understanding the logic behind U.S. policy in the region, and let us ask Mubarak about the logic of the Bush administration behind imposing a food and medicine blockade—which is against all heavenly and earthly norms, laws, and values—on 18 million Iraqis for a year and five months, considering that its justifications were removed eight months ago. Is there any human logic behind this, Mr. Mubarak, or is the law of jungle the predominant logic that inspires the thinking of that old man in the White House? Let us also ask according to what logic did Bush muster all armies and launch a military, scientific, and psychological campaign against Iraq and its people to destroy all that the Iraqis had built and demolish the infrastructure of their existence?

The paper wonders according to what logic does Bush want to lay the foundations of a new world order and to choose force first to lay these foundations and to subjugate nations which have a free will that rejects submission, by first weakening and humiliating these nations and then swooping down on them like a bird of prey to swallow them as a tasty morsel.

The paper says that last but not least, given that the instances of the Bush administration's logic require volumes to document, according to what logic is a three-year-old issue being raised again against fraternal Libya, which has nothing to do with it, as it has said. Is it because it rejected blackmail and submission to it? Is it perhaps the logic of power, Mr. Mubarak, which you supported and fostered in Bush through your alliance, along with Arab traitors, with him! We can understand the conduct of the Bush administration only by looking at this logic, which you have skillfully and magnificently described—a skill that you must be envied for.

'Travesty' of Syrian Presidential Elections Viewed

JN3011133291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The AL-QADISIYAH newspaper brands the elections that will be held in Syria on Monday, 2 December, as a travesty meant to extend Hafiz al-Asad's presidential term in office for one more time, since he is running unchallenged.

In an analysis published in today's edition, AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Ministry of Defense, adds that the Syrians view the entire thing as an extension of both their and their country's prison term for seven more years. They will remain powerless and impotent at a time when they badly need to be active during this period.

With regard to the domestic situation in Syria, the paper quotes sources it terms as informed as saying that the legacy of the past few years, especially the last two years, as well as the accumulating record of the past two decades, have put al-Asad's regime in a precarious situation.

AL-QADISIYAH touches on the ties binding the ruling Damascus regime to Western and Israeli quarters, and the pledges it made to implement their schemes in return for keeping Hafiz al-Asad in power.

The paper notes that the 1976 Lebanon invasion, the attacks mounted by the Syrian regime against nationalist, pan-Arab, and progressive forces which had reigned supreme in Lebanon; the strikes it carried out against the Palestinian resistance that was allied with them; and the perpetration of the Tall al-Za'tar massacre were the price al-Asad paid for his second presidential term, which began in 1977.

AL-QADISIYAH says that al-Asad took part in the Iranian aggression against Iraq in 1980. It also notes that the Hamah and Aleppo massacres, which left more than 30,000 people dead in 1981, were the ransom Hafiz al-Asad offered for his third presidential term in office, which began in 1985 and expires on 12 March [1992].

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that one of the key missions assigned to Hafiz al-Asad during his next presidential term is to consummate the settlement of Arab and Syrian problems with Israel.

The paper does not rule out the possibility that there could be other hidden tasks which al-Asad might strive to implement "if he manages to stay at the helm of power in the face of the masses' wrath" in the aftermath of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Attempts To Relinquish Jerusalem Criticized

JN0212091991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has criticized what has been said by some Arab and Islamic parties about their willingness to relinquish the Arabism of Jerusalem in exchange for Israel's recognition that Arabs and Muslims own the holy places in it.

In a comment today, the paper wonders about the motives of such statements at a time when the Arab nation and the Islamic world have formed a committee especially to maintain the Arabism and Islamic identity of Jerusalem, noting also that Arab leaders have held many summits for this purpose and that the Security Council has issued several resolutions calling for maintaining its character and history.

The paper expresses fear that these statements might reflect "the first in a series of greater concessions that might eventually lead to surrendering not only Palestine and Jerusalem, but all the holy places they contain."

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the value of Jerusalem lies not only in the fact that it contains holy shrines, but because it is an occupied Arab city, the capital of Palestine, and part of it, and that no one has the right to relinquish it or Palestine.

The paper regrets such statements about one of the holiest shrines of Arabs and Muslims that ignore the great sacrifices made by the Arab nation to liberate the city and its state, Palestine.

Hostage Negotiator on Chances for Dec POW Deal

TA0412122891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Slonim, member of the Israeli hostage negotiating team, by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Does Terry Anderson's release bring us closer to Ron Arad and the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's?

[Slonim] We must avoid statements about whether things bring us closer or not. It is better for us to do more and talk less. I believe that this month, which is the UN secretary general's last month in office, is significant and the chances are better. Therefore, I am very, very careful in what I say and I believe we should do more and talk less.

[Daniyel] As somebody close to the problem, how do you view the procession of newly released hostages who, after seven years of incarceration, thank Syria and the organizations which captured them? The Syrians could have brought about the release of all those people years ago, had they so wanted. Is that true?

[Slonim] I agree that those keeping the POW's, MIA's, and hostages could decide when to release them, but I would like to reply to you with a saying: All we want is to get into the vineyard and eat grapes; we have no interest in killing the guard. Our only aim, our sacred aim, is to see a happy ending. There must, however, be less talk and more action.

[Daniyel] But that guard, whether Syrian or Iranian, is scoring points in world public opinion while both the Syrians and the Iranians were at least indirect partners in the imprisoning of the hostages.

[Slonim] What interests me is the humanitarian outcome and less the scoring of points. All we and the families of the boys should care about is the result. The public relations of those countries are not part of our considerations right now.

Unconfirmed Report Says Arad Held by Syrians

TA0312212191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] A local London broadcasting station called LBC reported this evening that navigator Ron Arad is being held by the Syrians, to whom he has been handed over by Hizballah. The station added that negotiations to obtain his release are currently under way. This is reported by our London correspondent Rafi Rosenfeld, who tried to find out the sources of the report.

A security source in Israel has told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the information came from a Lebanese agency that is unreliable. Uri Lubrani, one of the coordinators of contacts about the POW's said that no other source has confirmed the report. He claimed that no new development in connection with Israel's POW's has occurred in the past 24 hours. He, like Defense Minister Arens before him, emphasized that Shiite Shaykh 'Ubayd will be the last person to be released, and that his release will come after our POW's have returned and all the information on the MIA's has been received.

Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez Continues Visit

Meets Palestinian Delegation

LD0312143591 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Excerpt] On the last day of his visit to Israel, the [Spanish] prime minister called on this country to take the initiative in the negotiations for peace in the Middle East and to go to the heart of the matter. Felipe Gonzalez has just had a meeting in Jerusalem with a Palestinian delegation, led by Faysal al-Husayni, one of the main negotiators at the Middle East peace conference. A joint communique on the visit was issued at noon today. The communique highlights the good moment in bilateral relations, which will allow the analysis of the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the region. This morning Felipe Gonzalez has a meeting in Tel Aviv with the executive committee of the Israeli Labor Party. [passage omitted]

Further on Meeting With Palestinians

TA0312194391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] This evening Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez denounced the murder in al-Birah. At the end of a meeting with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni at the Spanish Consulate in East Jerusalem, Gonzalez said that in his opinion, the settlements are an obstacle to the peace process. He described both the murder and the settlements as provocations aimed at halting the peace process. Our correspondent, Moti Amir, reports from the Spanish Consulate in East Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The Spanish prime minister conferred this evening with Faysal al-Husayni, who led a delegation of Palestinians that included representatives of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front, Fatah, and the communists. Popular Front members absented themselves from the meeting, due to Popular Front Day, which was marked today in the territories with festive events.

At the end of the 90-minute meeting, Gonzalez said Spain would insist that matters of substance and the real problems between the Palestinians and Israel be discussed in the negotiations in Washington. Gonzalez deplored the murder of Tzvi Klein in al-Birah, and emphasized that the settlements and the murder are provocations aimed at halting the peace process.

[Gonzalez, in Spanish with superimposed Hebrew translation] The settlements are incompatible with international law in our opinion. At this moment, the settlements are an element that does not inspire confidence and that impedes the negotiations. As for the murder of Tzvi Klein, I did not know about the murder, but if one did take place I denounce it, of course. In my opinion, many provocations will take place now in an attempt to halt the peace process.

[Amir] On emerging from the meeting, Faysal al-Husayni did not approach the journalists, but Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, who is identified with Fatah, and Dr. Mustafa al-Barghuthi, who is identified with the communists, did. Both emphasized that the talk with Gonzalez had been beneficial. Al-Barghuthi said the Palestinians complained to Gonzalez about collective punitive measures in the territories and about the curfew on Ramallah in particular, but he failed to mention that the curfew had been imposed in the wake of the murder of Tzvi Klein. [end recording]

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez wound up his visit to Israel this evening with a news conference in which he reiterated his friendship and that of Spain toward Israel. Nevertheless, our correspondent, Gid'on Remez, observes that Gonzalez underscored the differences of opinion with the Israeli Government.

[Begin recording] [Remez] The news conference was preceded by a minor incident, when the Spanish escorts removed an Israeli flag that had been placed alongside the Spanish flag on the podium. The Spanish said something about protocol. Answering my question, Gonzalez said that he, the man who established relations with Israel, is certainly not embarrassed by the presence of an Israeli flag. Nevertheless, he was forced to field many questions about the time he took establishing those relations. His replies sounded less than ideal to his Israeli audience. Gonzalez reiterated his call to the Israeli Government to make a substantive move that would jump- start the peace process, and he spelled out what he had in mind.

[Gonzalez, in Spanish with superimposed Hebrew translation] The disentangling move would be an Israeli initiative concerning some substantive problem. Naturally, its implementation is linked to the territorial problem, and the latter is linked to the settlements, as I said before.

[Remez] Even if you talk about autonomy, the Israeli gesture should touch on the territorial issue, which is linked to the question of the settlements, Gonzalez said.

As for Israel's request to be accepted into the economic zone being established around the EC, Gonzalez said: You could be brought closer, but expectations about a status similar to that of Norway, to cite just one example, are unrealistic. In any case, any future arrangement would have to apply to all the countries of the Middle East. [end recording]

Issues Joint Communique With Shamir

TA0412121391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p A4

[Report by Yerah Tal and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Spanish counterpart Felipe Gonzalez issued a joint communique winding up the latter's visit to Israel and highlighting the strengthening of economic and political relations between Israel and Spain.

The communique notes that it was decided to formalize bilateral relations and that the foreign ministers will meet at least once a year, alternately in the two countries, to discuss international issues pertaining to both sides.

It was decided to launch talks in order to reach an agreement on economic and industrial cooperation and to summon, at the earliest possible date, a high-level joint committee whose job would be to hold consultations on matters of common interest.

Various aspects affecting relations between the EC and Israel; the state of bilateral relations on the political, economic, and cultural level; and consular and cooperation issues would be discussed in these meetings.

It was also decided to promote the signing of an agreement to prevent double taxation between the two countries. The communique goes on to say that Spain and Israel recognize "the importance of the historical-cultural path shared by the two countries, which is the result of coexistence with the Jews in Spain." The communique stresses the shared interest to preserve and nurture this heritage.

The communique also points out that the sides agreed to hold various events to mark the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. These events include collaboration in the field of education, cultural exchanges, preservation of the Ladino language, and dialogue between the two peoples. [passage omitted]

The communique includes Spain's declaration of intent, in general and noncommittal terms, to help Israel integrate in the EEC. The communique fails to mention political issues, probably because the two prime ministers failed to reach an agreement. [passage omitted]

[A report by Judy Maltz on page C1 of the same paper notes that "the industry and trade ministries of Spain and Israel will draft a joint working paper on the promotion of economic relations between the two countries. This was decided yesterday by Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim and his Spanish counterpart, Claudio Aranzadi, who accompanied Prime Minister Gonzalez on his visit to Israel." "Agreements on the development of industrial cooperation were also discussed in the meeting, and a series of actions to promote bilateral trade was decided."

"The Spanish minister noted that his government would agree to include information in its industrial publications about the possibilities for trading with and investing in Israel. Visits by businessmen in various fields—initially in the field of medical electronics, telecommunications, and aeronautics—will be organized."

"The inclusion of Israel in the European Free Trade Area was raised in the meeting, as well as Spain's position on European legislation concerning the Arab boycott."]

Holds News Conference

LD0312175391 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Report on news conference in Jerusalem by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on the last day of his official visit to Israel; by "special correspondent" Javier Arenas]

[Text] The news conference ended just a few minutes ago at the King David Hotel, where Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has been staying. In spite of expressing his confidence in the Middle East peace process, he feels concerned, he said, because the differences are being maintained and there are still many obstacles in the way. This is how he felt after two days in Israel, where he was able to verify the negotiating will maintained on both the Palestinian and Jewish side. Felipe Gonzalez stressed that it is Israel that has to take some first step at the present juncture of the peace process. On the intifadah, the four-year old Palestinian protest, the prime minister described it as a peaceful and civic protest as opposed to other military or terrorist aggressions which Israel has suffered on certain occasions.

On mediation, Felipe Gonzalez noted that the Spanish position cannot in any circumstances be that of mediator. There has been no request in this respect because Shamir always maintains that the degree of bilateral contacts should be at a maximum and, in any event, Spain's role and that of the European Economic Community is, of course, always a limited one. On a possible future visit by King Don Juan Carlos, he said that the king's desire to pay a visit had been reiterated through him, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, although it is not very likely that it will be paid in 1992, when 50 heads of state will be visiting Spain. Indeed, in March 1992, the president of the State of Israel is expected to come to our country. Felipe Gonzalez declined to answer any questions on Spanish domestic issues at the news conference. That is all.

Further on News Conference

LD0312222391 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is now on his way back to Madrid, spent the day in Israel on the eve of the second phase of the Middle East peace talks, which the Shamir government will not be attending until next week. In talks with Palestinian representatives, according to Palestinian sources, the Spanish prime minister is said to have expressed his disagreement with the stance of the Israeli Government on the construction of new settlements in the Arab occupied territories. At the news conference with which Gonzalez brought the first official visit to Israel by a Spanish head of government to an end, he spoke at length about the difficulties facing peace in the region with a reflection that warrants particular mention: the prime minister defined the Palestinian intifadah as a peaceful and civic protest. Here is a report on this from our special correspondent in Jerusalem, Javier Arenas:

[Begin recording] [Arenas] After two days in Israel the prime minister feels more optimistic than before the Madrid conference, but not more than when the first bilateral phase of negotiations ended:

[Gonzalez] I am concerned because I believe that the difficulties are many.

[Arenas] In spite of everything, Israelis and Palestinians are maintaining their will to negotiate, as Felipe Gonzalez was able to appreciate. He fixes the next step as the necessary Israeli initiative.

[Gonzalez] If a phase of autonomy is being considered I believe that the triggering element has to be a proposal—in operative terms; I am not saying that it [Israel] has the obligation—it has to be an Israeli proposal. If not, it will be difficult for there to be such a triggering element.

[Arenas] The initifadah, the four-year old Palestinian protest in the occupied territories—how does the Spanish prime minister see it? Trying to be careful about his answer, Felipe Gonzalez described it as a human conflict which a democratic society would find it difficult to reply to. It is a peaceful revolt.

[Gonzalez] Fundamentally—I am not saying that there are not excesses in any public demonstration—it is peaceful and civic, unlike some of the aggressions which Israel has sustained historically, which have been aggressions of a military nature or of a violent terrorist nature.

[Arenas] Always condemning any act of violence and without abandoning a desire to contribute to peace, Felipe Gonzalez is sincere about the role of Spain and the European Community in a settlement in the Middle East.

[Gonzalez] What weight could we have for the real decisionmaking process? I believe very modest. What weight does the European Community have? I believe less than that which corresponds to it by virtue of its economic, financial, and historic ties with this region.

[Arenas] Six days away from the Maastricht summit Felipe Gonzalez is stressing the need for Europe to articulate politically its common foreign stance. The

possibility of Israel being incorporated into the European space as the only associate from the Middle East is simply not realistic.

[Gonzalez] I don't know whether the Community would be able to make a distinction of status in the future between its relationship with Israel and that with the countries of the region. I don't think that this is realistic.

[Arenas] Israel-Spain—bilateral relations lasting six years now and with this a flow of exchange.

[Gonzalez] It has been extremely intensive and I think that it will be extended still further in the future. [end recording]

[Arenas] An exchange of future visits: the president of the Jewish state will probably be in Spain in March 1992; and the king and queen will also visit Israel, though probably not in 1992 with its busy agenda. [passage omitted]

Arens Comments on New Military Outpost at Tapuah

TA0312163391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that Rehelim at the Tapuah Junction is merely an outpost manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers. At the same time, Arens said, Rehelim may in the future become a civilian settlement, as has been the case with most Nahal Brigade outposts set up in Israel. Moti Gadish reports:

[Begin recording] [Gadish] During a tour of the Army's experiments unit, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said there is no impediment preventing Israeli citizens from moving around freely in the outpost at the Tapuah Junction. Nevertheless, he said, this is merely a Nahal Brigade outpost.

[Arens] We are setting up a Nahal Brigade outpost in this spot; it will ensure security in the area. The Nahal Brigade outpost is the legal outpost at this site.

[Gadish] There is no impediment preventing Rehelim from turning into a civilian settlement in the future according to the defense minister.

[Arens] I do not want to predict the future, but I suppose that it ultimately will, just as in the past Nahal Brigade outposts became military presettlements, which eventually became civilian settlements.

[Gadish] Regarding the POW's and MIA's, Minister Arens said he has no new information on the issue, and that he pins his hopes on the UN secretary general's activities. According to the defense minister, it is absolutely inconceivable that Shaykh 'Ubayd should be released before Israel has received all the information about its POW's and MIA's. [end recording]

Arens-IDF Dispute on Outpost Viewed

TA0412104691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] Sharp tension has surfaced between the Defense Ministry and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] following Minister Arens' instruction to man the military outpost at the Tapuah Junction with Nahal soldiers. Army personnel are protesting the instruction and claim that it is a deviation from the permanent pattern of relations between the civil and military echelons. The officers said it is the government (and not the defense minister alone) which has the authority to approve the establishment of military presettlements. The defense minister has the authority to decide on the establishment of outposts such as that at the Tapuah Junction, but only the General Staff is authorized to decide which soldiers and units are to man them. The defense minister's media adviser denied that there is tension between Arens and Baraq, and added: "The minister can issue instructions on who will man the outpost. The minister and chief of staff spent many long hours yesterday travelling together, and I did not hear any reservations by the chief of staff about the manning of the outpost by Nahal soldiers."

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 4 December, in a page-3 report by Shlomo Dror, says that "the agreement reached between the Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens on manning Rehelim confirms that a civilian settlement at the site will continue parallel to the Nahal presettlement. Under the agreement, the three mobile homes will remain on the site alongside the Nahal presettlement and will be manned with a vigil of women from Judaea settlements on condition that their number does not exceed 15. Aharon Domb, a council leader, said that when the settlement is civilianized the mobile homes will be added to the settlement."]

Senior Army sources claimed that the defense minister intervenes rudely in the chief of staff's work and decides on things that are not under his jurisdiction. The IDF was referring to Arens' remarks that "the IDF will set up a Nahal outpost to assure security in the Rehelim area." The minister claimed yesterday during a tour that "Nahal Brigade outposts became military presettlements, which eventually became civilian settlements." Senior military sources said that the IDF will heed the defense minister's instruction and set up a Nahal outpost near the Tapuah Junction on the Ramallah-Nabulus axis in the coming weeks. Senior sources in the Civil Administration claimed that an outpost cannot be set up in an area seized by the Army because the area confiscated for security purposes is too small.

Army sources expressed shock at the defense minister's order to man the outpost with Nahal soldiers. They said that "the defense minister can instruct the chief of staff on the establishment of an outpost, but he cannot

instruct the chief of staff on how to man them; that is not within his authority and is a rude intervention which is difficult to understand."

DAVAR has learned that the defense minister's office is applying heavy pressure on the chief of staff to set up additional outposts along the traffic axes in Judaea and Samaria. The Jewish settlers are exerting heavy pressure on the defense minister and the Civil Administration to approve the establishment of two additional settlements in the Rehelim and Yad Ya'ir areas. On taking over his office, the chief of staff decided that the number of military presettlements along the traffic axes have to be significantly reduced. The chief of staff does not believe in the effectiveness of these outposts and maintains that using mobile forces is much more effective and that the upkeep of the outposts is unjustifiably expensive.

The defense minister rejected the claims that the IDF is being soft on the uprising in the territories. He said, "The IDF is being tough, and I would not advise anybody to be a resident of Ramallah and feel what they feel after an attack."

PFLP Claims Responsibility for al-Birah Attack

TA0312195491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, has claimed responsibility for the terrorist act in al-Birah two days ago in which 'Ofra resident Tzvi Klein was killed. In a statement, the PFLP said that one of its groups operating in the territories laid an ambush in al-Birah and fired on a car carrying settlers.

Minister Ne'eman Speaks at Tehiya Party Meeting

TA0312150791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 91 p A2

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Minister Yuval Ne'eman, Tehiya party chairman, addressed the opening ceremony of his party's convention in Ari'el last night. He declared that Tehiya's main objective right now is to stop the political process, and that Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet, which intend to topple the government the moment practical talks about autonomy and the future of the territories are launched, have achieved maximum coordination.

Ne'eman also noted the possibility that the right-wing parties would unite to form one list for the next Knesset election.

The Tehiya convention was overshadowed by the death of Tzvi Klein, who was shot and wounded at the Tapuah Junction on Sunday. Commotion ensued and debates were halted when the news of his death reached the convention hall. Representatives of all the Jewish settlements in the territories entered the hall, and Ne'eman left the stage to consult with his associates. During the recess, he telephoned the prime minister, demanding his approval for the immediate establishment of an outpost on the site of the attack.

President Hayim Herzog, who had been invited as the guest of honor, was absent from the convention opening ceremony. His absence gave rise to numerous expressions of indignation from Tehiya's upper echelons, who noted that the president failed to show up, even though he had no qualms about attending a RAKAH [part of Democratic List for Peace and Equality] convention.

The evening's central speech was made by Tehiya Chairman Ne'eman, who is expected to be reelected for another term this morning. Ne'eman dwelt on the similarity between the present day and the period preceding the evacuation of the Sinai settlements.

"Neither our determined struggle nor the passive resistance on the roofs of Yamit [Sinai settlement] were enough to avert our withdrawal. Today's reality is reminiscent of the days of the Israeli peace plan of December 1977, according to which the Israeli settlements were supposed to remain as an enclave on sovereign Egyptian territory. It would have been a miserable subsistence, but after the negotiations, that too vanished without a trace," said Ne'eman.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 3 December, in a page-3 report by Pe'erli Shahar, adds: "The Likud was represented at the Tehiya convention by Minister Moshe Arens and Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, who congratulated the convention in place of President Herzog, who was unable to attend."]

Herzog Congratulates Ukrainian President-Elect

TA0312185191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] President Herzog has sent a telegram of congratulations to the president-elect of the Ukrainian Republic, Leonid Kravchuk. He wished him peace and prosperity in the name of the Israeli people.

10.5 Tonnes of Heavy Water Returned to Oslo

TA0312184991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] A report from Oslo says Israel last night returned to Norway 10.5 tonnes of heavy water. Norway decided to stop the production of heavy water after a dispute with Israel on whether it could supervise the use of such a product in a nuclear reactor.

Possible Jazzin Withdrawal Demoralizes SLA

TA0312184591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 91 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The behavior of the soldiers serving with the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has recently become a cause for concern among security elements. Sources fear that it could be a sign of the troops' declining motivation as the political process gathers momentum and the Israeli and Lebanese delegations begin negotiations.

The sources asserted that the signs are evident among many SLA soldiers. Apparently the SLA's motivation is dropping, and this has occasionally been expressed in the troops' behavior.

The reason behind the drop in motivation is the belief of some of SLA Commander Antoine Lahd's soldiers that Israel will soon withdraw from the Jazzin enclave and will later abandon the security zone, which will be turned over to the Lebanese Army. In such an event, the SLA troops realize, they will be forced to come to terms with a new reality, in which they will have to live peacefully with the Shiite villagers north of the security zone and with the Lebanese Army, controlled from Beirut.

This assessment stems from an analysis of the developments in Lebanon and from an attempt to guess at Israel's future positions. There have been reports in both the foreign and Israeli media that Israeli experts predict U.S. pressure on Israel to withdraw from Jazzin. Those reports have only compounded the soldiers' fear of what the future holds.

Some SLA troops estimate that within a short while, the U.S. pressure on Israel will force it to cede its direct control of southern Lebanon, in return for gains on other fronts and issues. "The days of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in southern Lebanon may be limited," sources in General Lahd's army said, "and when the IDF goes, we will have to continue living here and to explain our actions and our current military activities."

There is a marked tendency among the SLA troops to lower their profile during operations as a result of these estimates and feelings. It is quite conceivable that in the future they may even refrain from carrying out activities they believe could harm their future relations with the residents farther north and with the Lebanese Army's central command.

Some SLA personnel may want to live in Israel if the IDF leaves southern Lebanon and transfers control of the area to the Lebanese Army. Those soldiers believe that they will be vilified by the Lebanese Army. It appears that most of the SLA troops, however, plan to remain in Lebanon even if the IDF withdraws. There are some in Israel asserting that plans must be prepared and a new policy formulated to protect the northern border without the security zone.

Brigadier 'Ami Ayalon Named New Navy Commander

TA0212074591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The deputy commander of the Israeli Navy, Brigadier 'Ami Ayalon, is to take over as head of the Navy next June. He will replace Major General Mikha Ram, who is ending his service in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Brig. Ayalon was born in 1945 on Kibbutz Magen. He enlisted in the Navy in 1963, volunteering for the naval commando unit. He has fought in all of Israel's wars since 1967 and received the medal of heroism for his part in the attack on Green Island in Egypt in July 1969. During his naval career, Brig. Ayalon has served as commander of missile boat and Dabur patrol boat squadrons, as well as naval base commander at Ashdod and at Haifa. He is married and the father of three sons.

Ministry To Transfer Funds for Arrow Radar System

TA0212082991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] The Arrow project's research and development teams are still searching for the malfunction that caused the latest test to fail. The Defense Ministry will now transfer $100 million to develop the missile's radar system. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv is here with the details;

The Defense Ministry will transfer $100 million to develop the Arrow missile's radar system within the framework of its multiyear plan. The planners estimate the cost of developing the missile's radar system at $200 million. Up until now, only $350,000 has been invested in developing this sophisticated system. Work on the project will actually enter high gear now, with the transfer of the money. The Arrow development teams are currently hard at work to pinpoint the malfunction that led to the failure of the missile's third trial: a test firing in which the missile failed to intercept another missile.

The United States is following the efforts to find the malfunction and has announced that it will not permit another test of the missile until the faulty mechanism is found.

Defense establishment sources expressed the hope that when the money to develop the missile's radar system is received, the entire project, which is way behind schedule, will get the serious boost so important for its advancement.

Firm Denies Surveillance Plane Deal With Spain

TA0112092891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] The spokesperson of Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has denied that IAI signed a deal with Spain to install electronic systems in a Spanish surveillance plane. She told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that IAI's management knows nothing about such a deal, reported this morning in a prominent Madrid paper.

King Addresses New Parliament Session

JN0112120891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1005 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Speech by King Husayn from the throne inaugurating the Jordanian parliament's third ordinary session in Amman on 1 December—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: In the name of the Almighty, I open this third ordinary session of the Jordanian 11th parliament. I thank God for blessing our efforts with success as we all rise to the task of protecting this dear homeland, promoting its welfare, and establishing the foundations of enlightened democracy, political pluralism, and responsible civil liberties. These are firmly rooted in the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and in the National Charter as a framework and expression of life, work, and construction for the sake of serving the homeland and for ensuring the unity of its sons regardless of their status and creed, to achieve a secure and prosperous future, where aspirations will flourish and where all citizens will shoulder their responsibilities and work toward building a model society and making it impregnable to backwardness and fragmentation to become a secure and prosperous oasis and a front that is impregnable to penetration.

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, my government has assumed its responsibilities under critical circumstances which you are fully aware of. I have wished it to shoulder its responsibility in a climate of freedom, tolerance, and honesty in full compliance with the Constitution, the National Charter, the supremacy of the law, and the work for achieving the national objectives necessitated by comprehensive reforms in all walks of life on a sound scientific basis. To implement this objective, my government will cooperate with your esteemed assembly to enact the necessary laws as soon as possible arising from the abolition of martial law and to organize political pluralism, and the freedom of expression, of speech, and the press, as well as other legislation submitted to your esteemed assembly. The completion of all this will stand as a token of maturity and deep awareness. It will enable us to meet future challenges with a cohesive national fabric which carries the hallmarks of the new age based on liberty, knowledge, democracy, commitment to human rights, defense of the homeland and its achievements, and recognition of the achievements of our fathers who did their best for the sake of its pride and unity. [applause]

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, as it embarked on plans to counter the economic, social, and educational effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordanian life, in addition to other ramifications of which you are aware, my government was faced with fresh political developments on the international and regional levels, foremost among these was the international political drive toward the convening of a peace conference. Since the issue of peace has been for us a commitment which we confirmed on all occasions and in all platforms, and a constant component of Jordan's policy for decades based on the firm principles of international legitimacy as represented by UN resolutions to achieve a just and honorable peace which would guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, as well as security and peace for all the region's states and peoples, my government has responded to the invitation to participate in the peace conference out of concern to protect our homeland, shoulder our responsibilities toward our people, nation, and future generations, and to contribute to the efforts which, being based on right and justice, should achieve the interests of the Palestinian people—this fraternal people to whose support we have always been committed and concerned about helping them to regain their sovereignty and rights over their national soil.

In agreeing to participate in the peace conference, we have moved in the direction of peace. We are confident of our people's ability to stand up to the challenges of the stage of a just peace, with all the requirements of this stage in terms of clarity of vision, commitment to constants, and brave confrontation.

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, you certainly realize that democracy entails responsible behavior and a decent way of life. Those who believe in this principle and course take upon themselves the task of strengthening this principle and course and of confronting anything that encroaches upon the homeland and the values that are known and respected by all. Such people reject any encroachment on the authority of the state and its various institutions.

Democracy does not confer on any single group a claim of monopoly over wisdom or truth. Nor does it provide a license to justify encroachment on the rights and liberties of the vast majority of the people, or question the importance of the role of the national security bodies entrusted with protecting the interests of the homeland and the people. Such conduct can only be construed as undermining the security of the homeland and the people.

With great pride and high esteem, my government recognizes the role of our Armed Forces in defending the country and protecting its security and independence. It also appreciates the heavy burden they shoulder under difficult conditions. They do so out of respect for the principles of the great Arab Revolt and a firm commitment to pan-Arab ideals. My government, therefore, will accord these dear Armed Forces every attention with regard to their training, armament, development, and professionalism. It will ensure that they remain a stronghold of the homeland; a guarantee in providing the means for security, stability, prosperity, and progress; and the protector of our territory and free existence on this territory since we stand at the vanguard position of the Arab world.

In highlighting these facts and elements, my government wishes to emphasize that Jordan's security establishment will remain the focus of its confidence, appreciation, pride, and concern. Security personnel will always be the gallant soldiers of the homeland in their defense, vigilance, sacrifice, and deep sense of responsibility and self-denial, as they shoulder their sacred duty to protect the homeland and its citizens and to safeguard their rights and security from any danger.

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, being deeply aware of its pan-Arab duty and historical commitment to our nation's destiny and causes, with the Palestine question at the top of the agenda, my government will endeavor to reinforce this commitment in accordance with the principled rules and fundamentals for dealing with the Palestine question and our Palestinian brethren. This will be done in conformity with the principles of international legitimacy expressed through UN resolutions to end the Israeli occupation; to enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their national soil; to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, stipulating the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the principle of the exchange of land for peace; to stop the building of settlements and terminate settlement activities; to bring about Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem; and to provide the means for a just and permanent peace in the region.

Within this framework, my government will continue to coordinate with our Palestinian brethern in such a manner as would lead to the desired effect, particularly with regard to the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the deep-rooted principles on which our dealings with the peace conference are based.

As a founding member of the Arab League, my government is concerned with continuing its role to achieve Arab solidarity. It will, therefore, endeavor in every way possible to restore the Arab solidarity that was undermined in the wake of the Gulf crisis with the objective of strengthening the ties of brotherhood, shared destiny, and mutual interests among the peoples of the League's member states. It will continue to exert its best efforts toward that end as a result of its deep faith in Arab unity and its defense of the future of its generations.

My government will also press on with the strengthening of cooperation and friendship with sisterly Muslim countries and their peoples, as well as with other friendly countries, on the basis of mutual respect, common interests, and noninterference in the internal affairs of others. With a view to realizing these objectives, my government will further work to enhance Jordan's role and its participation in regional, Islamic, and international organizations.

Honorable senators, honorable deputies, in the fields of education, culture, guidance, and youth, my government will continue implementing its plans that aim at making the nineties decade one of comprehensive educational reform, promoting education and educational development, and attaining equitable distribution of qualified personnel over all areas. My government will continue concerted efforts to achieve comprehensive cultural development, and guarantee freedom of creativity, thought, and opinion. It will enhance youth participation in the fields of advancement, building, and development within plans that are compatible with the nature of the current phase; thus, providing the national effort with their creative capabilities, and entrenching dialogue with and among them on the homeland—its history, prospects for progress, and great pride.

The Ministry of Education is currently implementing a comprehensive plan for educational development aimed at introducing an integrated program for civic and military education. The plan also radically reassesses curricula and textbooks for the various educational stages, and draws up the necessary plans for training teachers, in addition to expanding vocational education and applied education, changing the nature of school exams and tests, and upgrading educational administrations and personnel in harmony with the changes of the era in terms of upgrading the educational process from mechanical learning to thinking and creativity.

As we stand at the threshold of profound social and scientific changes, and expansion in higher education, we must reaffirm the principle of academic freedom at our universities in order to be effective powers in the process of change and progress, since it is the source of thought and learning, and the approach that discovers the true answers through objective and systematic research. This research is based on thinking, not dictation; depends on seeking knowledge from its sources; tackles the homeland's issues through research; and is capable of facing the challenges of the era in the field of science and technology. All of this will lead to progress whose bases, to which we are committed, are freedom, democracy and justice in a climate of creative action aimed at development, progress, and innovation.

Let the change be profound, and the standards distinguished. Let the challenge against fanaticism, dictation, and superficiality be clear. Let all that be preceded by a comprehensive review aimed at reforming and improving education at all levels. This review must include its legislations, relationship with the progress of the homeland and nation, and deep commitment to what we have expressed in our National Charter with regard to building distinquished Jordan that is capable of acquiring the technology needed for enhancing the homeland's resources within a precise systematic plan that stems from a modern and advanced educational system, and an effective cultural structure that is striving to achieve the aspirations of liberty, unity, and a better life.

The responsibility of preaching and guidance in the society is closely associated with safeguarding national unity, enhancing the values of good, tolerance, and unity

of ranks, away from fanaticism, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. This being the case, we stress that the principle role of mosques and other places of worship is to educate people in matters of religion, and to urge them toward virtue, integrity, respect for public order, and a firm rejection of any attempt to sow division and dissension among the sons of the one homeland and the one family.

Honorable senators, honorable deputies, efforts must continue to modernize and promote legislation, and entrench institutional capabilities to meet the needs of citizens and interact with development plans in a new spirit. This requires unleashing ideas on administrative reform on methodological principles that take into consideration the modern concepts of public office, and the subsequent follow-up, training, evaluation, scrutiny, legislation, and incentives. These efforts must confront all factors that obstruct the road to reforms, regardless of their social or individual motives. Decentralization must be entrenched in order to activate the role of the district officers in the various governorates and other administrative units. Progress must be made toward providing the authorities and means that serve this role and that transformation in order for the citizen to resolve his problems within the administrative unit he resides, thus freeing central administration for the tasks of planning, follow-up, and supervision.

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, Jordan has suffered more than any other country from the Gulf crisis. Perhaps the most salient feature of Jordan's suffering in this regard has been the continued impact of the crisis to this day, marked by great demographic pressures brought about by the return of about 300,000 of our citizens from the Gulf, particularly Kuwait. We have dealt with these demographic pressures from a standpoint of a realistic and scientific analysis of the nature and magnitude of the problem. The returnees constitute a large and sudden increase of about 10 percent of Jordan's resident population. This has called for an increased parallel demand on social and economic services as well as infrastructure. On the other hand, the returnees represent a wealth of experience and skills acquired over long years of hard and persistent effort in building up the societies and economies of sister states. While abroad, our sons had the opportunity of working with the most advanced means of production. They have returned to us with their varied and profound experience that will undoubtedly enrich our society and contribute to its economic growth.

In dealing with the question of the returnees, we have pursued a two-pronged approach. The first was to do our utmost to expand public services, particularly those connected with education and health. The other was to release the energies of the returnees to enable them to effectively contribute to production and to use their experience, skills, and savings in the various sectors of the economy.

My government will seek to provide informational and technical services to help channel savings toward investment. These will include preparing directories on available and possible investment opportunities and on expansion of existing infrastructure to serve the establishmeant of new industries, especially those which provide the largest number possible of job opportunities. The government will also provide partial financing for marketing studies and product-development projects.

At the same time, the government will continue to combat the other negative effects of the Gulf crisis, especially the recession experienced by the various sectors as a result of the closure of Jordan's principal export markets. Efforts will be expanded to find new markets for exports, to conclude new trade agreements with friendly and sister states, to support the drive to upgrade production, and to provide our economic activities with flexibility and immunity against fluctuations in the traditional markets.

On the other hand, my government will sustain its efforts to restore economic relations with neighboring Arab countries to their original course, which is dictated by considerations of historical ties, geographical proximity, and shared interests. We have, in fact, already embarked on the way back to the course of cooperation. Thanks are due to the government of sisterly Saudi Arabia for removing obstacles to trade exchanges, thus resuming the decades-long process of joint brotherly action and economic cooperation to the benefit of both brotherly peoples.

My government will continue to exert every effort to rectify the course of our national economy and deal with the basic problems of recession, unemployment, fluctuations in the balance of payment, and the state budget deficit. We are encouraged that initial indicators show a positive trend in the Jordanian economy toward containing the burdens of the crisis. Contrary to expectations, the gross domestic product for 1991 has achieved a positive growth of up to one percent. The ratio of consumption to gross domestic product decreased from 119 percent in 1990 to 101.5 percent in 1991, a decrease of 17.5 percent. Also, the trade account deficit in the balance of payment was reduced by 16 per cent during the same period.

The government will continue to control expenditure while striving to provide a good level of services. It will continue to provide subsidies to those who deserve them without squandering resources or causing an unjustified growth in expenditure.

The government will also continue to deal with foreign debts and reschedule them with a view to reducing the resultant burdens. It will pay special attention to the management and control of the external and domestic public debt. Commercial borrowing will be curtailed and restricted to soft development loans.

Unemployment and poverty continue to pose a major social challenge. Therefore, the government will maintain its strategy of encouraging investment and production geared toward the creation of new job opportunities. To this end, the government has reviewed all regulations which aim at facilitating the private sector's activities to enable it to play its required role in promoting the process of production and increasing job opportunities. It has also taken appropriate measures to regulate the domestic market and guest labor. The government continues to coordinate with sisterly countries with the aim of finding new job opportunities for Jordanian workers.

With regard to those institutions directly involved in combating unemployment and poverty, the government has sought to support social-work and voluntary institutions financially in order to implement integrated social and productive projects. It has facilitated the provision of easy loans for small projects through the specialized credit agencies. It has expanded the activities of the development and employment fund and has augmented the role of the Vocational Training Corporation to include training, rehabilitation, and assistance in the establishment of small projects for graduates.

Despite the difficulties facing the national economy, the government will continue to deal with the problem of farmers' debts with a view to alleviating their burden. The government will exert continuing efforts to resume and promote the development process by drawing up a medium-term national development program, expanding the private sector's role in the development production process, creating a competitive investment climate, identifying sectoral problems, and adopting policies and measures and giving the necessary incentives to increase the private sector's participation in the process of development. This development program is aimed at:

1. Promoting the development process and achieving positive growth rates that would positively reflect on the level of the Jordanian citizen's standard of living.

2. Gradually reducing the gross product rates of consumption.

3. Reducing the current account deficit in the balance of payments through increasing and diversifying exports—in terms of commodity and geography—encouraging tourism and remittances from workers abroad, and reducing imports.

4. Augmenting foreign currency reserves, reducing reliance on foreign loans, and easing the debt burden.

5. Reducing the budget deficit by introducing structural reforms with regard to expenditures and revenues, and by channeling subsidies directly to those who deserve them.

My government is preparing a national strategy for the protection of the environment with the purpose of ensuring a sustainable ecological balance among its principal components in such a manner as to protect the well-being of citizens now and in the future. It is also working to activate the role of local councils to render them capable of playing their part in developing our cities and villages, and modernizing our local communities comprehensively.

My government views the water issue as a key issue and a major concern, and accords it top priority. It is fully aware of the political, legal, economic, social, and technical aspects of the difficult water situation in the homeland. This requires an effective management of our water resources, a conservation of these resources, an augmentation of available resources, and a constant search for new sources as well with a view to meeting our country's present and future water needs.

This also requires a persistent endeavor to safeguard our acquired rights to waters shared with neighboring countries, within the framework of regional solutions to ensure Jordan's water needs.

Honorable Senators, honorable Deputies, the endorsement by our people of the National Charter was an expression of their national, pan-Arab, and human aspirations and perspectives. Hence, its principles and pillars must be viewed as guiding rules to our political action and democratic approach, and also to our social, scientific, and economic progress as well. Recourse must be made to the Charter and its principles by all our institutions in the process of enacting legislation, drawing up strategies, or instituting plans in various walks of life in order to ensure the rule of law and strengthen our democratic society. The National Charter is a pledge and a trust, and an intellectual reference at this phase, during which we seek to enhance equality, justice, and equal opportunity in this homeland, which has carved out for itself the brightest chapter in its nation's contemporary history through its unique response to difficult challenges, and also through its its demonstration of an unbending and relentless pan-Arab pride. [applause]

We are at the threshold of a new phase which holds the prospects of drastic and profound changes, and presents us with immense challenges. These changes and challenges impose on us the responsibility of facing them with wisdom and foresight. They also require us to widen the scope of awareness and hopes, and to reject signs of divisiveness, feebleness, and weakness of resolve.

My government, therefore, will be eager to deal with this new phase with enhanced courage, a sense of responsibility, discipline, and awareness in order to protect this homeland and its citizens from all dangers or conspiracies, to reinforce its renaissance and position, to safeguard its dignity and security, and to preserve the components of its growth and prosperity. We must all realize that Jordan's historic pan-Arab role continues to assert itself.

In order to preserve this role, we have had to cope with the burden of being misunderstood and besieged. We

have chosen to rise up to the challenges to vindicate the principles upheld by our forebears while they were forging ahead, [applause] carrying the great Arab Revolt banners to free the nation. These were the same principles that our soldiers defended on the walls of Jerusalem, and on the two banks of the River as well. Right now, as we rise up to the battle for peace, we shall always remember the sacrifices made by our forefathers and fathers in fighting injustice, aggression and oppression, and while seeking justice, peace, and freedom for the homeland, all its sons, and to safeguard the future of its generations.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Columnist Considers New Cabinet Hard To Oppose

JN0312100991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 91 p 5

["The View From Fourth Circle" column by Rami G. Khuri: "Power, Change, and Dances of the Jungle Beasts"]

[Text] You know that this is a moment of great historical change in the Middle East because everyone is acting in such a peculiar manner. Change is evident in domestic developments in several Middle Eastern countries, as well as in political capitals further afield, including:

—the manner in which Parliament forced a change of government in Jordan, without forcing a change in policy.

—the tit-for-tat feuding between Israel and the United States.

—the sudden reinvigoration of extremist and provocative acts by the Israeli Government.

The historical change I refer to really boils down to a very simple process: power is being transferred from the old ways of military-and security-minded people to the new ways of civil government and political leaderships that seek the equal application of human and political rights to all people in the area. A region that sought unsuccessfully to assure its stability and security through the psyche of fear and the politics of force is now lurching towards a new set of political criteria. In the lurching, otherwise rational men act in strange ways.

The dispute between the U.S. and Israel about starting the bilateral peace talks in Washington on Dec. 4 or Dec. 9 is a case in point. The date is irrelevant. The real issue here is power. Who decides the date and venue? Clearly, the United States does in this case. What does this portend for the future? It suggests that Washington may also lay down the law on more substantive matters, such as Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land, Palestinian rights, or American aid to Israel. The power balance is shifting. Scared warriors cannot forever dictate policy. So they challenge, they ask for five more days in December. They try to believe that the world has not changed, that their old ways still work.

They also seek to make change in the region difficult. The Israelis keep building settlements in Palestine and the Golan Heights. Their parliament affirms that the Golan can never be returned to Syria. Their prime minister dives into the Old Testament, desperately seeking shelter from the contemporary winds of cold reality. They take over more homes in Arab Jerusalem and raid the archives of the most sacred Islamic holy places in Palestine. These are the desperate acts of old men who fear change, who see power slipping out of their hands and into the hands of a new generation of Arabs and Israelis that sees security as the consequence of justice and equal rights for all, rather than of military might and physical occupation of other people's lands. These old men from the past try to ignore the signals of change from the new generations, the opinion polls in Israel and among American Jews that show a massive majority in favour of freezing settlements, exchanging land for peace, and coexisting on equal terms with the Palestinians and other Arabs. As power shifts from the old, scarred warriors to the young who speak of justice, political actions become rough, emotions shrill.

Take domestic politics in Jordan as another very different example that belies the similar phenomenon of societies in change and power in transition. Why would the ancient regime-type characters who dominate the Constitution Bloc challenge the young government of Tahir al-Masri? I have heard many explanations, of which three seem possible: a) some people resented his Palestinian origin, b) some people resented not being included in his cabinet, c) some people resented the postponement of parliament for two months at the crucial moment when Mideast peace talks were starting, and they showed their resentment by challenging the prime minister and his cabinet.

Option (a) is probably applicable to a small number of small-minded people whom we can easily ignore, because they represent the past, and have no serious role in the future of this land and this region. Narrow ethnicity and false nationalism have been the plague of the Arabs in the last two decades, and should be left behind in the ashes of the 1970s and 1980s. The overwhelming message from the grassroots of the Arab world today is not "where do you come from?" but rather, "where are we heading to?"

Options (b) and (c) are more likely. But what do they reveal about how political and economic power are wielded in Jordan today? They show that the process of democratisation is rather serious, even though is not yet impeccably decorous, deep, or widespread throughout society. Members of Parliament suddenly realised that their positions entailed more than their candybarco-loured licence plates and new passports. They realised that they had an opportunity to participate in the apportioning and exercise of raw power—and raw power, in

the end, means influence, jobs, contracts, financial benefits, the glow of the television lights, trips to foreign cities, meetings with important visitors from abroad, and the satisfaction of feeling self-important because your people chose to have you represent them in parliament. To become a cabinet minister assures you of lifetime financial security, and a substantial hike in your political and social standing in a society that is intensely political and socialised.

It took about two years, but our MPs finally started to play the political game when they had a prime minister such as Tahir al-Masri willing to play. Tahir al-Masri should go down in the modern history of Jordan as the first prime minister who truly engaged in a political process, who responded to popular sentiment as represented in parliament, who put up with the silliness of some MPs who were flexing their young political muscles. This game was not possible in 1989-91 with al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir or Mudar Badran, mainly because of the complex interplay between the lure of power for MPs and the constraints imposed on them by social niceties and traditions of courtesy.

Tahir al-Masri changed all that, for he was correctly seen to be our first genuinely democratic prime minister (or, as they very perceptive and honest Jordanian modern historian Mustafa Hamarnah called him, our first "instinctively democratic" prime minister). Unlike Mr. Badran and al-Sharif Zaydi, Mr. al-Masri was fair game. His territorial social base was sufficiently diffused to allow him to be challenged without permanently damaging family honour or bilateral social/economic interests. His status as a wealthy, self-made businessman and public servant from a traditional regional merchant family also increased his eligibility to be challenged. He was a product of the marketplace, and thus subject to the forces of the marketplace.

His status as an elected member of parliament was also a factor. He was a political animal living by the code of the jungle. The other jungle beasts found it not only permissible but perhaps even biologically obligatory to challenge his supremacy. Why should he be prime minister, and not someone else from parliament, if parliament was suddenly the pool from which the wielders of power were plucked?

His strength was that he accepted the challenge, played by the democratic rules, and gracefully bowed out when he saw that his incumbency was the inevitable price to be paid for the continuing Jordanian transition to pluralistic and participatory democracy. The amazing thing is that the new government has adopted exactly the same policies of the al-Masri government—but it has a stronger base in parliament. So, the al-Masri policies were not the issue. The issue was power, but power is not totally without constraints, as we shall see with our new government.

Al-Sharif Zayd poses a more problematic challenge to parliament, for he is not as easy to oppose, for four reasons:

1) He is a Sharif, descendant of the Prophet Muhammad's noble family, and therefore slightly above the jungle of parliamentary politics.

2) He offered His Majesty King Husayn's speech as his government's political programme. While everyone will have comments about the speech, and many people will suggest amendments, additions or changes in emphasis, very few peope will want to oppose it outright, because this would be seen as a personal gesture against the King—and that remains beyond the accepted rules of this constitutional monarchy. History will ultimately pass verdict on the policies of King Husayn, and our parliamentarians will be more than happy to leave that job to history.

3) Al-Sharif Zayd offers the jungle a breather, a pause between bush battles during which the beasts retreat, regroup, tally their losses and gains, and review the landscape once again. It would not look good to bring down another government at a moment when the country presents itself as a budding democracy and a committed partner in the search for regional peace and stability.

4) His cabinet includes members from all major parliamentary blocs except the Muslim Brotherhood, so that the MPs' thirst for executive-stye political power is largely satisfied.

The real issue here, though, is not personalities, but power. Parliamentarians have woken up to the fact that they can increase their personal power and their impact on decision-making. They are testing how far they can go, flexing their young muscles, standing in front of the political mirror and admiring their newfound bulk. And, like adolescents who have been given a new car, they are pushing it to the limit, testing how fast they can go without crashing, driving dangerously on the edge.

All this seems rather healthy to me. Remember, however, that MPs now perform on a stage that is largely unmonitored. The press is letting them off easy, because the press is mostly envious, and wants to share the stage of power and profit with them. The electorate is intrigued, amused, busy elsewhere, or uninterested in the deeds of grown men acting like teenagers. Special interest groups, lobbies, and extra-Parliamentary political forces are young or non-existent, and will take time to develop.

Our MPs were wonderful at challenging the old style of government and calling for new methods and policies. Now that they are in power, most of them have proved mediocre at presenting policies that can meet the challenges of the times. Most of them still think they live in pre-November 1989. They want to be perpetual opposition figures, while enjoying the perks of incumbency. They demand from the government many things, forgetting

that they are part of the government. They admire themselves in the political mirror, not knowing that the mirror will soon shatter from the sheer intensity of their audacity.

We have to put up with this until the MPs themselves discover that they, too, are accountable to the people, just as the prime minister and the government are accountable to them. I await the next general elections with great relish, because MPs who now engage in jungle ceremonies and wild tribal dances will have to answer to the people who gave them power in the first place—the voters. Some MPs will be thrown out, unceremoniously dumped after being exposed as false and selfish leaders. Others will be re-eleced, triumphant in their personal credibility and their political commitment to a genuinely pluralistic democratic process. Tahir al-Masri and the many others of his breed will enjoy their moment in history, secure in their unselfishness, self-confident in their commitment to an Arab identity based on dignity and democracy rather than on dinars and dollars.

This is the way of nations in transition, and we should welcome it as a healthy and vital phenomenon. As political and economic power become more diffused, expanding from a limited circle of interests to a broader electoral base, strange things will happen, grown men will act in peculiar ways, speeding cars will rattle the ground beneath us, and children will wake up to the sound of mirrors crashing. Yet, the people will be the victors in the end, for not only will they ultimately get more democratic and responsive government, but they also get to watch an entertaining show on the way.

Officials Condemn Extended University Closure

JN0312103591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 91 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Israel's decision to renew the closure order of Bi'r Zayt University for another three months is another attempt on the part of the occupation authorities to provoke negative reactions on the part of the Palestinian delegation to the peace process, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said Monday.

The Israeli measure is illegal and is a violation of international law and Palestinian human rights, she said. it is also a flagrant defiance of the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace conference, Dr. 'Ashrawi added.

By extending the order, Bi'r Zayt University will have been closed for over four years, according to the university's liaison office in Amman. It issued a statement in which it said that the university views the present extended closure as a very serious offense, especially since all other Palestinian universities were allowed to reopen several months ago.

The closure order clearly indicates the lack of respect for international resolutions concerning academic freedoms and is indicative of intent to erect obstacles to the peace process, the statement said.

Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation's advisory committee, said the continued closure was aimed at undermining the confidence-building measures started at the Madrid parley. The extension of the closure, coupled with Israel's open intention to increase its Jewish settlements is a clear indication of Israel's evil intentions, he said.

He added that Israel is clearly aiming at provoking the Palestinians and the whole international community, including the U.S. Government.

A spokesman for the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) said that the Israeli measure deprives the Palestinians of their rights to an education.

Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Secretary General Muhamad al-Dughaqm urged world organisations to take action to force Israel to refrain from such arbitrary actions.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, said that Israel's extended closure of Bi'r Zayt University aims at aborting the peace process. He said Israel openly refuses to live in peace with the Palestinians people.

According to the liaison office statement, the university will continue to challenge the Israelis by providing educational services to its students in makeshift arrangements and through "undeclared classes" in student and faculty homes or rented premises outside the university campus.

It said that the university will do all it can to provide educational opportunities for the Palestinian people. The statement stressed that the university would continue its campaign to see to it that the university is re-opened and that its students, faculty, staff and administration resume their normal academic roles on their campus without coercion or harassment.

U.S. Visa Denial for Two Palestinians Denounced

JN0212134591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 91 p 22

["A Stand" column by Muhammad Ka'wash: "Poets Are Denied Entry!!"]

[Text] I have learned, and only God knows the truth, that Palestinian Poet Mahmud Darwish [PLO Executive Committee member] and writer Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman [official PLO spokesman] were denied U.S. entry visas!!!

Poet Mahmud and Writer Ahmad were going to Washington to support the negotiating team. This is one of the legitimate and legal rights of the Palestinian team because any mistake

in negotiations, even in the interpretation of a single word, will instantly lead to the loss of hundreds of miles of occupied Arab territory. Therefore, the delegation members should keep their eyes open even in their sleep.

We denounce and disapprove of the U.S. measure to deny entry into Washington of a great poet, regardless of his political capacity, because this is not the way poets should be treated in a country that claims to be civilized and developed, and because Washington is not a party to, but rather only a sponsor of the negotiations.

The U.S. measure might have been taken in response to Israeli wishes. We know that the Israelis are killers of outstanding writers, poets, and painters. We also know that the Israelis are closing down the universities, institutes, and schools. We know that they blew up the American University [of Beirut] and we know that they assassinated Ghassan Kanafani, Naji al-'Ali, Majid Abu- Sharar, and dozens of writers, and arrested or expelled many more.

Why does Washington close its doors to writers, intellectuals, and innovators? Is this measure taken against their ideas and political affiliations? Is there a U.S. law stipulating such penalties?

We do not want an answer...of course....

'Security Source' Confirms Anderson Release

NC0412101691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1002 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] A Lebanese security source has confirmed that U.S. hostage Terry Anderson has been handed over to Syrian intelligence officers, who transported him to the Syrian capital by land. No official confirmation has yet been received from either U.S. or UN officials on Anderson's release.

Hostages Said To Be Swapped for Hammadi Brothers

NC0412065691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Press reports yesterday said that the two German hostages will be released in return for the release of the Hammadi brothers, who are detained in Germany.

Buwayz Receives German Ambassador

NC0312220091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this afternoon received the German ambassador in Lebanon at the latter's urgent request. The German ambassador declined to make any statement.

Jazzin Issue Said To Be Excluded From Talks

NC0412082891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Israel has started a new coercive process concerning Jazzin. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of occupation affairs, said that the talks with the Lebanese delegation will not touch on the issue of Jazzin, adding that this issue only concerns the commander of the pro-occupation militia.

'Price' of U.S. Proposals on Jazzin Viewed

NC0312210091 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 22 Nov 91 pp 5,31

[Article by 'Ali Shamas: "The Price of the Jazzin Gift: Moving Away From Syria Toward Israel And An American War Against The Islamic Resistance"]

[Excerpts] Two things preoccupy the U.S. Administration and its ambassador in Lebanon, Ryan Crocker, these days. The active American ambassador, who moves from Madrid to the prime minister's house and the Foreign Ministry, has conveyed offers and conditions concerning two issues:

First: The administration views with concern, anger, and indignation the continuation of the resistance in the south, particularly the Islamic resistance, whose blows have recently been painful in terms of the losses it inflicted on the Israelis and their agents. They have also been painful on the political and strategic levels for the American policy in Lebanon and the region because the resistance has become the only hand which hits and says no, compared to the total silence prevailing in the Arab and Islamic region. [passage omitted]

Second: The U.S. Administration views with indignation and hatred the continuing political coordination between Lebanon and Syria.

From this angle, in particular, widely informed political sources affirm that Israeli aggression against the south and the movements of the American ambassador in Beirut have become two sides of the same coin. The Jazzin game has become the title of these two currencies.

The sources refer to definite information they received from those who are informed about the talks that took place between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Madrid. According to this information, the Israeli delegation submitted an offer to the Lebanese delegation to withdraw from Jazzin unconditionally. The Lebanese delegation was surprised by this offer. It could not determine the long-range political effects until the American ambassador in Lebanon recently visited Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and submitted to him a similar offer. But he presented the conditions that Israel did not reveal. These conditions were as follows:

-The American administration is prepared to implement UN Resolution 425 within four months, provided the Israeli interpretation is accepted or agreement is reached with the Zionist entity in this regard.

-The American administration stipulates that a peace treaty should be signed between Lebanon and Israel immediately following the implementation of Resolution 425 without linking it to the developments of negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties.

-The American administration stipulates that the Lebanese Government should consider ending military operations against Israel in the south and ending armed activity in the south in general, and in Iqlim al-Tuffah, in particular. [passage omitted]

The same sources noted that some Lebanese officials indicated in their responses to the American ambassador's offer that Lebanon welcomes the proposal for the implementation of Resolution 425 as soon as possible, but the Lebanese Government will not be able to sign a peace treaty except as part of the signing of peace treaties between Israel and the Arabs. Therefore, they should wait for the results of the settlement conference in this respect.

The sources affirm that some officials smelled a bad odor coming from the American offer—namely, an attempt by Washington to separate the Lebanese and Syrian positions in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Islamic sources, however, view the recent American offer and the intensive activity of the American ambassador as an American war plan against the resistance in Lebanon, in complete cooperation and coordination with the Zionist entity, which carried out its recent raids with American instigation to support its political pressure on the Lebanese Government, on the one hand, and to increase the pressure on Syria, on the other. [passage omitted]

Shakkur Hands Over Steen to U.S. Ambassador

JN0312162091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Dec (SANA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur this afternoon handed over U.S. hostage Alann Steen to U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Shakkur said: U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio was released yesterday, and I said on that occasion that we were very pleased by the success of endeavors to release the rest of the hostages amid the Syrian Arab people's feast to renew allegiance to President Hafiz al-Asad.

I also said that Syria, which exerted and continues to exert efforts to release all the hostages on humanitarian grounds in cooperation with Iran and international organizations, will exert further efforts to release all the hostages and close this file.

Shakkur added: Once again we are celebrating the release of a new U.S. hostage, Alann Steen, while the Syrian Arab people's feast to renew allegiance to President Hafiz al-Asad is in full swing.

Shakkur added: We will only feel total happiness when we know all the hostages, especially those in the Israeli prisons, are free.

Concluding, Shakkur congratulated Steen on regaining his freedom, as well as Steen's family on its reunion with him.

Giandomenico Picco, representative of the UN secretary general, expressed happiness at the release of Steen and thanked, in the name of the UN secretary general, Syria and all those who contributed to the release of the hostages.

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross also expressed thanks on behalf of President Bush to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for their efforts to release Steen. He also thanked the UN secretary general and his special representative and expressed his happiness at Steen's release and his return to his family.

He also called for the immediate release of all the hostages.

For his part, Alann Steen thanked Syria and those who contributed to his release.

Al-Asad, 'Arafat Discuss Coordination

JN0312153591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at 1130 today. The delegation is made up of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Mahmud al-Khalidi. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, 'Arafat congratulated the president on the outcome of the referendum in which the president was elected for a new constitutional term of office.

The meeting dealt with the peace process in the region, the phases covered so far, and the task of the Arab delegation that went to Washington to attend the second phase of the peace conference. They stressed the need for coordination among these delegations.

'Arafat Meets PNSF's al-Fahum

JN0312172591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat received Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF], in Damascus today. Following the meeting, al-Fahum said they discussed the latest developments related to the peace conference on the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs

JN0312174591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1648 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Dec (SANA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Damascus at 1615 today after a two-day visit to Damascus, during which he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, 'Arafat said: I had the honor to meet President Hafiz al-Asad today and to be the first to congratulate him on the results of the referendum of the Syrian people and the masses of the Arab nation. On behalf of my brothers in the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership, I conveyed to the president our greetings, best wishes, and all our love because the voice which came from the Syrian brothers is also the Palestinian voice, as we are in one trench seeking one goal: To achieve victory for our Arab nation.

He said: During my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, our talks touched on the previous stage of the peace talks in Madrid, the talks which will begin in Washington in a few days, and the importance of a unified Arab position that takes Arab rights into account as its priority, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

He added: We also focused on the importance of stopping the settlement process, which represents the spearhead of the expansionist Zionist plan not only against the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, but

also against our Arab land. The talks also tackled the importance of Syria's position to confront these challenges.

He added: The talks with President Hafiz al-Asad were positive, constructive, and blessed. Ideas were identical on the need for the Arab nation to unify its position, pursue its interests, and confront the challenges facing it on more than one level.

Interior Minister on Referendum Results

JN0312144791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1158 GMT 3 Dec 91

["Text" of statement announcing results of referendum on the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad to a new term in office; read by Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah at the Interior Ministry conference hall—live]

[Text] Gentlemen: It pleases me to meet with you and talk to you. While I greet all of you—journalists, media men, and correspondents of Arab, foreign, and local news agencies—I cannot but mention the effective role you perform in conveying the real picture of what you see and sense and to communicate to international public opinion the facts this public opinion wishes to know. The Syrian people are very much interested in that the world learns about what is taking place in their country so that clear-cut facts will be conveyed to Arab and international public opinion without any obstacles.

Yesterday, Syria witnessed a unique popular referendum concerning the post of the President and a new constitutional term for his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. You witnessed in Damascus, and in other Syrian cities and villages, this broad popular turnout by the masses during which every Syrian citizen exercised his right and performed his duty with unprecedented enthusiasm. You saw groups of people from all walks of life and key sectors elbowing their way to the ballot boxes. You sensed the genuine spontaneity with which the Syrian people voiced their loyalty to their president and leader.

Gentlemen: The referendum that took place yesterday was in fact a referendum on a march that extends over the 21 years of the life of the glorious Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. Those of you who have read the first statement the Corrective Movement issued in 1970 realize the major guidelines of leader al-Asad's policy on the Arab and international level. As the leader has fulfilled his promise to the people, the people have reaffirmed their loyalty to their leader.

Past years have witnessed major changes which led to the establishment of a solid democratic system that manifests itself through the constitution; the constitutional institutions; the establishment of the National Progressive Front, which beside the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party makes up another six political parties; the establishment of the People's Assembly which is made up of representatives of all these parties; and independent members from the various sectors; the implementation of the local administration system; the enrollment of the people's sons in popular organizations and trade unions; and the reinforcement of the chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture, something which guaranteed the effective participation of all the people's classes in enacting legislation and in making political, economic, administrative, and productive decisions organizing all walks of life in the country.

In addition to this political pluralism, there is economic pluralism. In Syria, there is a public sector that has made major contributions to the establishment of a significant industrial base, and also to rendering various supply services. Furthermore, there is a private sector in Syria that is engaged in investment, industrial, agricultural, and service activities under legislation that provides it with facilities, exemptions, and protection which might be unparalleled in many other countries. This encouraged the launching of many agricultural, industrial, tourist, and service companies. Moreover, there is the mixed sector, which forms, along with the public and private sectors, the framework for the economic pluralism in Syria.

Thus, gentlemen, you find that Syria, which is marked by a democratic system, is the very Syria which expresses its will in a remarkable manner and confirms its allegiance to the president who honored his promises, to the president who put his words into effect.

This concerns the domestic domain. As regards foreign policy, Syria's position has been characterized as principled, firm, and fully committed to the Arab nation's higher pan-Arab interests. Thus, we have seen the liberation October war of 1973, and the victory scored by our people under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad by restoring self-confidence and the ability to face up to the Israeli challenge as well. And in Lebanon, which is linked to Syria by ties of brotherhood, neighborliness, and a common fate, Syria's policy under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has been a fraternal and wise one—a policy that saved Lebanon from fragmentation, ended the civil war, and caused Lebanon to reach the shores of accord, united in terms of territory and people.

Moreover, Syria opposed the Iraq-Iran war because it was a futile war that was not perceived to have been capable of promoting the interests of the Arab nation. Additionally, Syria condemned the Iraqi aggression against the fraternal State of Kuwait, and contributed to the implementation of UN and international legitimacy to liberate fraternal Kuwait. In the framework of this commitment to international legitimacy, Syria's position, which calls for the attainment of a just and honorable peace, is a serious, firm, and clear stance that enjoys domestic, Arab, and international support. The entire world knows who supports peace and who obstructs peace endeavors.

Gentlemen: In this statement, I have attempted to clarify some of the domestic and foreign policy facts which

made the Syrian people on the day of the referendum a people with an extraordinary turnout rate, and a strong enthusiasm—two qualities which made them flock to polling stations in strong and surging waves. The referendum in which the Syrian people have taken part concerned their life, fate, and future.

The Syrian people retain in their living memory 21 years of work, production, struggle, overcoming obstacles and difficulties, and confronting challenges under President Hafiz al-Asad, and they are still proceeding from this toward attaining the great goals of their march under his wise leadership in order to build a brilliant future.

Syria's people have said their piece and renewed allegiance to their leader. The turnout of the referendum before me confirms an unprecedented popular consensus. Syria said yes to political and economic pluralism, yes to democracy, yes to free expression, yes to factories and establishments, yes to dams, yes to power stations, yes to the political positions which demonstrate the leader's principled nature, wisdom, courage, and farsightedness. This is the substance of Syria's people. You saw it in every city, township, and village; in every quarter, factory, and field; and with the masses of women, who have achieved great development by equally participating with men and who are building, side by side with the men, this homeland, which yesterday moved unified, strong, and proud to declare their historic decision on the great day of referendum. Forever President Hafiz al-Asad will be our leader.

Gentlemen: I cannot explain to you more than what you have seen with your own eyes. You saw how the entire Syrian people went to the polls, how they moved joyously and optimistically on polling day, in which heavens also participated by granting its blessings through the heavy rain. Gentlemen: I am about to go to the People's Assembly to convey the final results of the referendum to the assembly speaker in order to complete procedures in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. I know that you are longing to learn about these results to convey them to your newspapers and news agencies and to the public opinion in your countries. So, I have to respond to your desire and give you this information and data about the results of the referendum.

Citizens eligible to vote, whose names appear on the referendum lists number 6,786,193. Citizens who exercised their right to vote number 6,727,992, which is 99.142 percent of the total number of citizens enjoying the right to vote. Those who approved of the People's Assembly candidate, President Hafiz al-Asad, for the position of the president, number 6,726,843 voters, which is 99.982 percent of the total number of voters. Those who disapproved number 396, which is 5.88 per one hundred thousand of total voters. The number of the blank ballots is 753. Gentlemen, once again I welcome you and thank you for attending.

Council of Ministers Discusses Referendum

JN0312192891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Dec (SANA)—The Council of Ministers this morning held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

In this meeting, the ministers expressed their admiration for the vast popular consensus witnessed by the referendum process on a new constitutional term for President Hafiz al-Asad, through which the people in Syria wanted to say their piece in a distinguished and unique manner, resulting in this great referendum.

The ministers stressed that the people explained that Syria—which since the Corrective Movement has registered a record full of domestic accomplishments manifested in economic advancement, social development, a democratic system, and successive sacrifices—has also registered wise policies that made it an effective force in the events. The masses which flocked to reaffirm their will in a distinguished manner, flocked for their dignity, pride, and life, and for their confidence in Syria's position, which was only attained during Hafiz al-Asad's time.

They also stressed the importance of entrenching the democratic trend and the sense of responsibility under the democratic system anchored by President al-Asad, and of paving the way for every creative and productive person to build the homeland.

VOL Interviews Vice President Khaddam

NC0312150491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1236 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Wardah in Damascus on 2 Dec]

[Excerpts] [Wardah] Welcome Your Excellency Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam or Abu-Jamal, as you are called by those close to you. The Voice of Lebanon [VOL] welcomes you.

[Khaddam] I am very happy for this occasion. I wish, through VOL, to convey Syria's greetings to the fraternal people and to every citizen in Lebanon. I also wish the Lebanese people—the various factions and parties—stability, calm, peace, and security.

[Wardah] Today is referendum day in Syria. We would like to know what your vote was: a yes or a no?

[Khaddam] No one in Syria, as you have already seen or will see, is inclined to, or feels he should, say no to President al-Asad. Today, all Syrian youth, elderly, children, men, and women are standing to say yes to President al-Asad, reflecting a national consensus that is unprecedented in Syria's history. [passage omitted]

Through this national consensus, Syria wants to tell everyone, whether friend or foe, that it is a strong, cohesive, and united front behind the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria wants to tell everyone that the Syrian people stand behind their leader without hesitation, with full firmness, full spontaneity, and full emotion during this great battle, the great battle that Syria has already experienced, and any it might experience. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] Some are asking why, democratically, there is no other candidate, not even in name only. Naturally, we have no objection against his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. We are simply conveying what some people are saying.

[Khaddam] Every nation has its own circumstances. Democracy is not a ready-made uniform that can be bought from this or that place. Take the Western democracies as an example. Is the democracy being applied in the United States the same as the one applied in Italy? Is the democracy of France the same as that of Britain? Each nation has its own circumstances and democracy emerges from these unique circumstances. The Syrian people, by endorsing the country's permanent constitution, chose the current formula because they believed it to be the most appropriate one, the one that could guarantee stability and welfare, and the one that could place Syria on the road to development, strength, and prosperity. This is why Syria opted for this road. The road, however, is open. If democracy means that there should be a counteropinion, the road to a counteropinion is open, and no one can prevent anyone from saying no, should he wish to. Judging by the content and development of Syrian society, the process is democratically sound and correct. As I said before, democracy is not a ready-made uniform that can be bought from this or that place.

Let us take a look at the others' experiments. Let us see what happened in the countries that wanted to copy a specific ready-made system. Let us see what is happening now in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union chose the road of democracy, Western democracy, without taking into account the social, economic, cultural, and political circumstances of the country. What do we see now in the Soviet Union, or what is happening now in the Soviet Union? A collapse is taking place. This great superpower is now looking for food from its enemies; from its former enemies. Let us see the East European countries that also adopted the Western-styled democracy as it is. What happened in those countries? We see social and economic suffering and difficulty and an all-out collapse in those countries. Democracy must be a recipe for construction, not collapse; a recipe for the people's dignity and prosperity; one for giving, productivity, and national solidarity, not one for disintegration and partition.

[Wardah] You are saying that there are several types of democracy, but the sound democracy is the one that suits the circumstances of each country. Is this what you think?

[Khaddam] Yes. Take Lebanon for instance. If we apply the democracy followed in the United States in Lebanon, will it succeed? If we take the democracy of France, for instance, will it work in Lebanon? Each country has unique circumstances. These circumstances dictate the type, nature, and institution of the regime.

[Wardah] Before we leave the topic of the referendum, let me ask you, very frankly, what do you think of the shots of jubilation fired by the Syrian troops in the middle of Beirut to express their joy at the reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad? As you know, the guns in Lebanon have been silent for long and we are no longer accustomed to hearing these sounds. What is your comment?

[Khaddam] Naturally, we in the Syrian command have asked the citizens to express their feelings and joy by means other than through the use of firearms. Genuine feelings do not necessarily have to be expressed by extraordinary means. Thus, we hope no shots will be fired, whether in Lebanon, Syria, or elsewhere.

[Wardah] Let us return to Beirut to ask when will you go to Beirut to reconcile Lebanese officials?

[Khaddam] Differences in view among officials is a natural thing. What is unnatural is to put these differences outside their constitutional and institutional framework. Every time some people thought that I went to Lebanon on a reconciliation mission, the fact is that it was not for that purpose. There were some bilateral topics that needed discussion and views that needed to be exchanged . If we go back to the history of the parliamentary and constitutional life in Lebanon, we will find that the differences, such as those that currently exist, are not new. If we go back to the mutual campaigns among the various politicians, whether in high or low positions, we will find that what is happening now is nothing new.

Every citizen who loves and is loyal to Lebanon hopes that differences in viewpoints will be limited and resolved within institutions. Lebanon needs cohesion and solidarity. Differences will undoubtedly rise. Guided by its friendship and relations with various officials and non-officials in Lebanon, the Syrian leadership always encourages the Lebanese to be wise, have insight, and do what is best for their country. We do not say that only officials. We say that to everyone, even those who used to be hostile toward Syria.

[Wardah] What do you say to those who bet that peace in Lebanon will fail?

[Khaddam] I tell them that they will lose the bet because a bet like that is opposed to history and the country. Those who bet that peace will fail are, in effect, betting

on Lebanon's partition and disintegration. We are all aware that a partitioned Lebanon is as good as dead. Hence, those who bet that peace will fail are wagering on the death of their own country, whether they know it or not. A man who bets on his country's death can only be described as a traitor.

[Wardah] Let us move on to Washington, where the peace talks will be held on 4 December; that is, in two days. Israel does not want to engage in negotiations before 9 December. Why 9 December? What did the Americans tell you?

[Khaddam] The truth is that it is not a question of 4 or 9 December. The fact is that the Israelis do not want peace. For over 40 years, the Israelis have been accusing Arabs of not wanting peace. When Arab states adopted a decision on this issue, however, the Israelis were pushed into a corner. They now have to choose between two things: To abandon their Zionist creed, which is religiously oriented, or to insist on that creed. Pursuing a peaceful course means abandoning the Zionist creed. They do not want to abandon the creed. Therefore, it is natural for them to try to obstruct the peace march and blame the Arabs. They have failed to do that. Therefore, they raise the issue of the venue, the time, or certain procedural issues. They want to push Arabs into being rigid about procedural issues before discussing the core of the issue itself. However, I think that the Arab side is aware of this matter, and will frustrate their attempt. The entire world will see that the Israelis, from the ideological point of view, cannot move toward just and genuine peace based on international legitimacy.

[Wardah] Have the Arab ranks, then, been united?

[Khaddam] As I know, the Arab position is the same on essential issues. There might, however, be some differences on tactical matters or on some issues some view as essential and others do not. Those directly interested in this conflict—the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Palestinians—maintain positions which, if not united, are at least very close to each other.

[Wardah] Syria is stipulating that the bilateral negotiations must be successful before it enters into multilateral negotiations. Why haven't you been able to unify the Arab stand on this issue?

[Khaddam] This is a point on which we differ. We believe that if we start multilateral negotiations before resolving the issues of an Israeli withdrawal and ensuring the national rights of the Palestinian people the Israelis will get peace and will not return the land to the Arabs. When Israel reaches an agreement within an international framework for the normalization of relations, achievement of economic cooperation, ending the boycott, and solving the refugee problem at the Arabs' expense, why would it withdraw from the territories? The peace card is the card for pressuring Israel to withdraw. When this card is lost, what other cards remain for us? That is why we have rejected the idea of holding a multilateral conference before concrete progress is made on the issues of withdrawal and the national rights of the Palestinian people. I think that the coming days will prove the correctness of this. If the Israelis, after months, are still discussing, arguing, and being intransigent about procedural matters pertaining to the date of the negotiations, how much more difficult will they be when the matter deals with a withdrawal. Why do some want to just hand them the peace card without getting genuine guarantees regarding territory when they are being inflexible regarding the issue of the date?

[Wardah] The talks in Washington to determine the venue of the negotiations....

[Khaddam, interrupting] Although Washington and Israel are allies and it assists, nourishes, supports, and defends Israel, the Israelis do not want the negotiations to be held in Washington. That gives us a food for thought.

[Wardah] Mr. Khaddam, are you in Syria satisfied with the performance of the Lebanese diplomatic delegation? Why have the delegation members received threats?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese delegation performed its national task perfectly well. The delegation members who go to the talks are not on a pleasure trip. The are engaged in a political battle. A delegation member is in a position analogous to that of an officer facing an enemy. Therefore, all the Lebanese, of all sects and inclinations, should support the delegation. The threats against the delegation by any party cannot be justified by national or patriotic feelings. The correct patriotic stand is to support those fighters who have gone to the talks to struggle for the liberation of their occupied land.

[Wardah] To struggle by diplomatic means.

[Khaddam] There are many forms of struggle, military action being the last resort.

[Wardah] Today is the day President Hafiz al-Asad will be reelected and hostage Joseph Cicippio will be released. We would like to know the price paid for the hostage releases.

[Khaddam] As you know, negotiations are ongoing between the hostage-takers and the UN secretary general. The UN secretary general, with the relentless efforts of Iran and Syria, arrived at an agreement that we think will put an end to the hostage problem, a problem that should not have taken place. Abducting people is an act that contradicts all moral and humane principles. We are glad that this file is being closed because it was an inappropriate and dark chapter of the Lebanese crisis. We wish to see the rest of the hostages released soon and hope that this method will never again be used.

[Wardah] Mr. Khaddam, some say that the price for releasing the hostages was to exonerate you and Iran of blame for the Lockerbie incident, blaming Libya instead. Others say that the price was Syria's participation in the peace conference. What is your comment?

[Khaddam] I will begin with the second part of your question. Syria did not seek the peace conference, even though it has always sought peace. Everyone knew that there was no possibility of convening a peace conference or establishing peace in the region without Syria. If Syria is a basic player and cornerstone in the peace process, why should a price have been paid? Everyone came to us to discuss and convince us to participate in the peace conference and the peace process. Syria did not seek participation. Others have sought it for us because they all realize the impossibility of establishing peace in the region without Syria. The claim that the price was Syria's participation in the peace process is not based on objective or logical facts.

The question of exoneration does not deserve any comment. Had there been any evidence whatsoever against Syria, a vicious and boundless campaign would have been launched against us. The proof of this is that Syria is still on the list of states supporting terrorism.

[Wardah] There was a campaign in the United States against Syria on that issue. The families of the victims carried out several demonstrations and raised slogans....

[Khaddam, interrupting] The issue is not that of the victims. The issue is political. There was a concentrated campaign against Syria backed by Zionism. Zionism, with all its institutions, realizes that its main and stubborn adversary in the region is Syria. Former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin always said that the enemy is in the north, meaning Syria. This campaign was launched, and some American official circles were taken in. They concentrated on Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command. Lengthy discussions took place between us and the United States on this issue. The last time, we informed the United States that we refuse to discuss the issue of terrorism. We said: We are not prepared to say one word about this issue unless we are presented with convincing material evidence. When such evidence is presented to us, Syria will take the suitable measures for judgment and punishment. No evidence was presented to us. As thought, the matter was closed until the U.S. and British leveled charges against Libya.

We think Libya is innocent. We reject the logic that Syria and Iran were exonerated in order to blame Libya because we care for Libya as much as we care for Syria. We care for every Arab state as much as we care for Syria. With its ethics and values, it is not part of Syria's character to ward off harm from it in order to place it on its brothers. Syria has always accepted danger to defend its brothers and not to embarrass them. It is impossible for Syria to put the blame on Libya in order to ease the pressure on Syria. We support Libya, and we reject and condemn any military action directed against Libya or any other Arab state.

[Wardah] As every one knows, his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad will speak on the occasion of his reelection. We would like to know what he will say and promise.

[Khaddam] I think we must wait for the president's speech. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Insists on 'Every Centimeter' of Arab Land

LD0312195491 Hamburg DPA in German 1850 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)— Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has reaffirmed that the leadership in Damascus is insisting on the return "of every centimeter of occupied Arab land." Khaddam thinks there can be no peace without the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories, as he stated in an interview in the daily 'DIE WELT' (Wednesday edition).

Land cannot be relinquished, it cannot be the object of compromise, Khaddam stressed. Israel will gain peace in return for this restitution. He evaded the question of what peace guarantees Israel could obtain. "That is the subject of the conference," the Syrian vice president said. Syria wanted peace "primarily because we want our occupied land back, and because we plan to redirect the energy currently used on military purposes toward economic and social fields." Sixty percent of the state budget, Khaddam said, is going to the military.

The text was prereleased in an edited version.

Talas Meets Commander of British Forces in Gulf

JN0312181691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Dec (SANA)—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister and defense minister, received here today a British military delegation led by Peter de la Billiere, special adviser to the British secretary of defense and commander of the British forces in the Gulf.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi and the British ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with relations between the two countries and two armies and ways of promoting them.

The guest delegation arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria lasting several days.

Afghanistan

Government Says Mojahedin Launch Gardeyz Assault

BK0412090491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Kabul, Dec 4 (AFP)—Mojahedin fighters have reportedly launched a fresh attack on a strategic Afghan city where a major rebel assault was crushed two months ago by Kabul troops, military and diplomatic sources said here Wednesday.

The rebels have launched what appear to be low level but direct assaults on government security posts ringing the eastern garrison city of Gardeyz after pounding bunkers as well as civilian areas with rockets, the sources said.

Afghan military sources said here the fresh mojahedin assault on Gardeyz, known as the gateway to Kabul, is led by influential mojahedin commander Jalalluddin Hakani, who owes allegiance to one of the three hardline resistance leaders in Pakistan.

"The rebels have been rocketting posts for the last three or four days and have now launched direct attacks," the source said quoting latest reports from Gardeyz, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here, where government troops blunted a massive mojahedin thrust in a 10-day battle beginning September 30.

Well-informed diplomats confirmed the report, calling the strike a low-level, multi-pronged attack. They were unable to give further details of the offensive which comes ahead of an arms supply cutoff to all sides of the Afghan conflict starting January 1.

A government spokesman described the military situation around Gardeyz as "normal" but said the rebels often fired rockets at the city. "It is not fighting," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, adding that he would give details if they came in.

General Nabi Azmi, a trusted aide of President Najibollah, has been appointed the Defence Ministry's special envoy to Gardeyz, although the garrison is commanded by another of the president's closest fighting generals, Mohammad Mia Khal.

National television, which rarely broadcasts battle reports, Monday night showed Azmi handing out money and battle honors to soldiers and officers of Gardeyz, one of the country's largest cities between Kabul and Pakistan.

Sources here said Najibollah had deployed trusted soldiers from Kabul and Tajik tribesmen in the Pashtun-dominated region to counter any possible battlefield defections from the area.

Hundreds were reportedly killed in the 10-day battle for Gardeyz in October and diplomats say the government victory in the area had shored up its morale at a time of growing concern in party ranks on the Afghan peace process.

More than 60 percent of the Afghan armed forces are members of the Watan (Homeland) Party, which seized power in a 1978 communist coup and was propped up by Soviet troops a year later.

Mojahedin Deny Attack Under Way

BK0412102991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Wednesday categorically denied reports from Kabul that mojahedin have launched a fresh attack on Gardeyz, but said small scale shelling against the city continued since October.

Najibollah Lafraie, information minister of the mojahedin Afghan Interim Government (AIG) based here, said that there was "no large scale attack" on the city of Gardeyz, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Kabul.

Light bombardment of the city had continued since a major attack failed in October, Lafraie added.

Director of the pro-fundamentalist AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) Qarib-Ur-Rahman Seyyed also denied any fresh attack on Gardeyz. He said he was in touch with the field commanders inside Afghanistan by wireless on Wednesday and "no one has reported any major attack" on Gardeyz.

Earlier, military and diplomatic sources in Kabul had reported the launching of a new rebel offensive on Gardeyz, but a government spokesman had described the situation there as "normal."

USSR To Attend Islamabad Talks on Afghanistan

BK0312135891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 3 (AFP)—A Soviet delegation is due here this month for talks with Pakistani Government officials and a possible first meeting of a Soviet-Afghan mojahedin commission, mojahedin and diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The visit, expected to focus on a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan, is tentatively set for December 19-20, diplomatic sources said.

Alexander Rutskoy, Russian vice-president and a decorated Afghan war veteran, is to lead the team, the sources said.

A resistance leader, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said a first meeting of a joint commission which the Soviet Union and the mojahedin set up at their talks in Moscow last month would "most probably" take place during the Soviet team's visit here.

Rabbani led the mojahedin delegation to the Moscow negotiations that led to agreement among the two sides on a series of points, including the transfer of power to an interim Islamic government in Kabul.

The agreement contained an understanding about the release of a first batch of Soviet prisoners of war by the Afghan rebels before the end of the year, and Moscow pledged to halt military supplies and fuel for combat to the Kabul government before January.

It was also decided that a joint commission would implement the decisions taken in Moscow.

The Soviet delegation is visiting Pakistan against a backdrop of intense diplomatic efforts and improved prospects for a peaceful settlement to the 13-year old Afghan war.

The peace efforts are based on a United Nations plan calling for the establishment of an interim administration in Kabul through inter-Afghan dialogue pending elections.

The Soviet Union and the United States jointly decided in September to cut off arms shipments to the warring sides from January to push the peace process forward.

Pakistan, which shelters more than three million Afghan refugees and serves as a base for the rebel government in exile, has been persuading mojahedin rebels to unite and back the political process.

Iran Seeks To Increase Role in Afghanistan

BK0412060091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 4 Dec 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 4 (AFP)—Iran plans to step up political activity in Afghanistan, playing the role of a new regional peacemaker and trying to remove anomalies between Islamic communities created by the 13-year-old war. Diplomats here say Tehran's latest moves on Afghanistan are also a warning against regional powers fuelling the fratricidal conflict. The diplomatic community engaged in hectic talks here has paused in mid-stride to analyse the latest Iranian moves as a new factor in the process of bringing fighting Afghans closer to talks, diplomats said. President Najibollah's Soviet-backed government has begun eyeing the moves warily since Iran last month flew special mercy missions for thousands of starving Afghan Shiite Muslims, and refused to sell fuel to the Kabul regime. Political tensions and uncertainties are growing in Najibollah's faction-ridden camp as the New Year deadline for a cutoff of weapons and combat fuel by Moscow comes closer. Kabul can ill afford to antagonise its giant Islamic neighbour at present, according to diplomats. "It is the right time for Iran to try to re-establish itself as a regional influence to steal a march over Pakistan and others, and try to eradicate pockets of discrimination against the Shiite Muslims," an Asian diplomat said. "We (Iran) will not support any puppets or individuals here, but the interests of the majority ... we will also try to bring the rebels closer to speed up the peace process," said Iran's chief envoy to Afghanistan, Mohammad Ibrahim Tahirian. Iran has excluded the Kabul regime from a scheduled conference between Pakistan, Tehran and the resistance later this month for talks on the implementation of the arms cutoff to both sides and the termination of the war through the reunification of divided Muslim communities. "Tehran is not trying to hijack the existing peace process, but aims to become a regional peacemaker and re-establish the Shiite Muslims of the country," said the Asian diplomat. Shiite Muslims are in a minority in Afghanistan where they are concentrated in five neglected central provinces and look upon Iran as their mentor. The Iranian diplomat defended his country's mercy missions and other political efforts saying Tehran was keen to bring the Muslims closer to prevent more Shiite refugees from leaving Afghanistan for Iran, particularly at a time when old adversaries were negotiating for peace. More than two million Shiite Afghans have taken shelter in Iran since the Soviet invasion of the country in 1979. Direct talks last month between Moscow and the Afghan resistance agreed more on concessions than the U.N. peace formula, which suggests an intra-Afghan dialogue, ceasefire, and the formation of an interim government before supervised elections by January 1992. Najibollah's government was excluded from the Moscow talks, while three hardline rebel leaders boycotted the discussions as a sell-out to an enemy the rebels fought until Soviet troops withdrew in 1989. The Iranian envoy said Tehran did not support the mojahedin view that the ouster of Najibollah was the main key to a settlement and said Iran backed any proposal such as the U.N. plan which could end the war and bring the Muslims closer. "It is propaganda to say we are trying to create problems between the Shiite and Sunni sects ... we only want to alleviate the misery of our Muslim brothers," Tahirian said, adding that Tehran will not bow to pressure while rendering help inside Afghanistan. "Iran will continue such (mercy) missions in central Afghanistan and elsewhere in the country where Muslims are suffering," he said, adding that Tehran was also willing to sell food and fuel to the Afghan private sector, but not to the Kabul government. "Iran is taking on a big-brother role on Afghanistan, and it is a warning signal to Pakistan, the Saudis and to some extent the Kabul government of its regional influence," said a Western diplomat, an expert on Iranian affairs. Najibollah's Watan (Homeland) Party, which seized power in a bloody communist coup in 1978, argues that no peace process could be complete without its participation. It also accuses Pakistan of creating hurdles on the path to an Afghan settlement. The Watan is expected to come under strong political stress after the January 1 weapons cut-off deadline expires, and Afghan intellectuals say the Iranian factor was posing new (?woes) among party hardliners who believed in a military option to settle the Afghan crisis. "There are vested interests who are making all this propaganda, but we do

not care ... we will carry on our humanitarian missions in Afghanistan," Tahirian said. "The Soviets gave weapons to Afghans to kill Afghans and no one said anything and now we are being criticised because we want to assist the people here," he added.

India

Parliamentarians Oppose ICO Debate on Kashmir

BK0412102491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Members from all sections in the Lok Sabha have expressed their serious concern over the reported move of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to include the Kashmir issue in its agenda for the Senegal meet later this month.

They said the organization must be clearly told that Kashmir is an internal issue of India and it should refrain from meddling with it. Raising the matter during zero hour, Mr. Mohammad Yunus, Janata Dal, and others said the move is at the behest of Pakistan. They criticized that Islamabad tries to raise the Kashmir issue at every international fora and it should be told once and for all that nobody has any right to discuss India's internal matters. There was a demand that the ICO should give representation to the Muslims in India so that they can put forth views of the secular country.

Libyan Envoy Gives al-Qadhdhafi Message to Rao

LD0312233491 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Dec (JANA)—The secretary of the General People's Congress handed over today in New Delhi P.V. Narasimha Rao the prime minister of India a letter from the leader of the revolution. The secretary of the General People's Congress and the personal envoy of the leader of the revolution had arrived in India today.

Editorial Urges Coherent National Nuclear Policy

BK0212160791 Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Defense Against N [nuclear]-Weapon"]

[Text] Non-proliferation issues have always been a sore point in Indo-U.S. relations. The U.S., in favour of a curb on horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, has long been pressing India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. India has held back on grounds that since the treaty does not prohibit vertical proliferation, it is essentially discriminatory in nature. With the problem of non-proliferation having acquired a fresh urgency in the post-Persian Gulf war international security debate, a realistic and more purposeful exchange of views on this between Washington and New Delhi has become imperative. The visit to India of the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for International Security, Mr Reginald Bartholomew, gave an opportunity for such a discussion. Given the dramatically changed global realities, the need for a review of the two sides long-standing approach to non-proliferation can hardly be overemphasised. Clandestine proliferation in countries favoured by the West has exposed the fallacy of blind faith in the NPT's effectiveness. Meanwhile, India's nuclear policy remains largely static. She is within her rights to refuse to subscribe to a discriminatory NPT regime. Indeed, since India exploded a peaceful nuclear device in 1974, its nuclear policy has remained at a standstill. While threats of political and economic sanctions held out by the lobbies entrenched in India have scuttled all moves for repeating the same experiment, nuclear weapons related developments outside the NPT regime—in Pakistan and Israel, for instance—have overtaken India. While India continued to dither over its nuclear policy, both China and Pakistan, the latter clandestinely, went ahead with their nuclear weapons development programmes. In view of the traditionally adverserial relations with both these countries, India's security environment has thus been significanlty altered.

Despite these developments, India failed to refashion its arguments against the NPT on the basis of security considerations such as the reality of Chinese, Pakistani, USSR and American nuclear weapons in the region. Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission P.K. Iyenger has said that India has "crossed the threshold of nuclear technology". This fact, of having crossed the threshold, has made no difference to India's strategic defence. As such India seems to incur the disadvantages of both sides. While she is excluded from the nuclear club whose membership was confined only to those who acquired weapons capability in 1968, she has lost all chances of securing a sufficient deterrent to the nuclear weapon threats being posed to her security by more than one country in the neighbourhood. Islamabad has come up with a scheme that proposes South Asia as a nuclear weapon free zone. The scheme presumably excludes the nuclear weapons already deployed in the South Asian region, including those of China, America and the former USSR. The recent U.S. and Soviet votes for the Pak [Pakistan]-sponsored resolution in the UN on a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia illustrates an altered balance of power. India cannot continue with her head-in-the-sands approach. She must tell the country what strategic defence the Government has in mind to counter the menace of the N-weapon powers in the region. Mr Bartholomew's visit affords an occasion for New Delhi to discard its essentially reactive policy on non-proliferation and instead discuss concrete proposals more suited to her strategic interests. At a time when nuclearisation of South Asia has become a reality, a discussion on "no-first-use" can be a useful option to pursue. But that suggestion presupposes that India is a nuclear-weapon State, which it is not.

Iran

Tehran Reports Release of Anderson

LD0412095991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930b GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Terry Anderson, last of the American hostages, was released in Beirut today. He is the third American hostage released this week. After being freed he left for Damascus. Anderson was the longest held hostage in Lebanon and, at the time he was taken hostage, he was bureau chief of the American news agency AP in Beirut.

Cicippio and Alann Steen, the other two American hostages, were released on Sunday and Tuesday of this week.

According to the statement of Lebanese groups, the release of these hostages followed a general agreement reached under the auspices of the United Nations for ending the hostage issue.

UN Representative on Anderson, Iranian Hostages

NC0412073191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed the hope that the fate of the five Iranians abducted in Lebanon will become clear by the end of the year. Perez de Cuellar met with the Iranian permanent UN representative [Kamal Kharrazi] yesterday and assured him that he would continue to pursue the matter seriously.

During this meeting, Perez de Cuellar once again expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance in his efforts for the release of the hostages. Our permanent UN representative spoke to an IRNA correspondent after his meeting with the UN secretary general, and said that from his talk with Perez de Cuellar, he gleaned that U.S. hostage Terry Anderson will be released today in Lebanon.

He added: The Westerners should consider the goodwill of the Lebanese groups and exert pressure on the Zionist regime for the release of the Lebanese Muslims.

Our permanent UN representative stressed: The international community also should exert pressure on the Zionist regime to halt its attacks on south Lebanon.

* Hashemian Accused of Conspiracy

92AS0293A London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam "Hoseyn Hashemian," the deputy speaker of the Majles, was accused by the "special court of clerics" of "conspiracy against the Imam's line" and after being summoned to the unknown location of the special prosecutor's office for the clerics, he was interrogated for hours. "Hashemian," accompanied by a few other representatives, had recently visited Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and also Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki in Qom.

This report was revealed by SALAM newspaper, managed by Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha, the head of the group that took American diplomats hostage in Tehran, and then IRNA was forced to verify it in its English report for other countries.

The deputy speaker of the Majles, following the interrogation, was allowed to return home. But it is unclear whether he was acquitted or whether future punishment has been ruled for him.

The Khamene'i-Rafsanjani duo, sensing the possible threat from the opposing clerics, have recently activated the special court of the clerics as a tool to threaten opposing and rival clerics.

* Deputies Declare Montazeri Qualified To Lead

92AS0293B London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Following the ruckus of the meeting of "Hoseyn Hashemian," the deputy speaker of the Majles (and husband of the sister of 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani), with Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, the unsuccessful successor of Khomeyni in Qom, accompanied by several representatives of the Majles, which resulted in the summoning of Hashemian to the special court for clerics and the accusation against him of "conspiracy against the line of the Imam," according to RESALAT newspaper published in Tehran, 120 Majles representatives signed a document and announced that Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri is qualified for leadership and worthy to succeed Seyyed Mehdi Khamene'i.

RESALAT newspaper, which is published under the management of "Azari-Qomi," announced that its source was "Asgar-Oladi," the head of the [Imam's] Relief Committee.

Last week, a ruckus and conflict continued among the various factions of the government over a meeting between the representatives of the Majles and Montazeri. In the open session of the Majles, Yadollah Eslami, the representative of Baft of Kerman, explained about the summoning of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian, the deputy speaker of the Majles, who, accompanied by a group of Majles representatives, visited a few grand ayatollahs in Qom in order to seek their assistance in aiding the people of Palestine. Following this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian was summoned to the special court for clerics for questioning, which naturally caused anxiety and unrest among a number of Majles representatives, because foreign radios broadcast disturbing news about conflicts among the officials of the Islamic Republic.

Eslami added: "The deputy speaker of the Majles has prepared a statement about this matter that I will read here: Revolutionary people of Iran! In regards to my being summoned to the honorable special court for clerics in connection with my recent meetings in Qom, I inform you that the media of foreign countries have used this issue to suggest that there are serious conflicts among the officials of the Islamic Republic. I declare here that this is not so, and I hope the nation and the officials will join hands in the future to stand behind the leaders of the Islamic Republic." In this message of Hashemian, although it is not clear why he did not read it personally in the Majles, he thanked those who had supported him during his arrest and asked those around him to stop discussing this event.

* Deputies Meet With Montazeri in Qom

92AS0293C London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Although Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri "resigned" his position as deputy leader upon the "suggestion" of Khomeyni in Ordibehesht 1368 [21 April-21 May 1989] (only a few weeks before Khomeyni's death), now various signs indicate that the power struggle in the Islamic Republic has resulted in the road for his return to the scene being reopened. Informed observers in Tehran and Qom believe that the expanding government crisis and leadership crisis in the Islamic Republic cannot be resolved by 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic.

If the selection of Khamene'i as the leader and the constitutional revision council to differentiate the leadership from the source of emulation resolved the leadership problem in the Islamic Republic for a relatively short time, the structure of the regime does not allow the separation of these two positions.

At first, efforts were made to raise the issue of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki as the source of emulation to create support for Khamene'i, who is not qualified as a source of emulation, by a source of emulation. But gradually Ayatollah Araki was forgotten and the government power was divided among Khamene'i, Rafsanjani and Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch.

The first indication of widespread support for Montazeri, despite the expansive battle that Ahmad Khomeyni and Mohammad Reyshahri (at the time the prosecutor general) waged to discredit him, came with the message of condolences that nearly 200 representatives of the Majles sent to Montazeri upon the death of his father, indicating that his influence in the government on the one hand and various strata of the society on the other was such that he would not be easily eliminated.

In Tehran and Qom, a letter was published full of praise, which Hashemi-Rafsanjani had sent when he was still the Speaker of the Majles on the occasion of his grandson, "Yaser," being killed in the war. This letter, which was published on 21 Mehr 1365 (30 October 1986) in KEYHAN published in Tehran, states among other things: "The nation from the very first days of the Islamic movement saw in you a pioneer and the tip of the arrow of holy war....It is not without reason that in you the nation found the requirements for leadership confidently and chose you consciously."

Placing Ayatollah Montazeri among the great prophets, Rafsanjani continues: "The path of the prophets and the destiny of the divine leaders is always coupled with calamities and their successes the result of difficult divine tests. God tested Abraham by sacrificing his son....Jacob by being separated from his beloved Joseph-....Moses and Jesus in their homelessness and problems, Job with the waves of hardship and tragedies, and finally, gave the Seal of the Prophets [Mohammad] the suffering and made them revered and successful." Rafsanjani concludes: "Undoubtedly, this nation will learn the lessons of self-sacrifice from revered persons such as your honor."

But this did not prevent Rafsanjani from actively participating in the conspiracy of Ahmad Khomeyni, Khamene'i and Reyshahri to remove him from the position of deputy leader.

Some time later, in a television interview, on the first television network of France, Rafsanjani considered Montazeri a "personality" for whom there were no rivals as the "unquestioned successor to the Imam." But Rafsanjani clearly made such comments to deceive Montazeri.

After Montazeri was forced to resign, the vast propaganda ruckus was started against him, along with demonstrations similar to those made to scare Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in Qom, so that Ayatollah Montazeri would repent his "sins" and subsequently become discredited before his supporters. But Montazeri did not accept and said that he would stand to his last breath to defend what he though was right.

Previously, with the execution of the dangerous gang of Mehdi Hashemi, who was apparently engaged under the religious covering of Montazeri in a coup d'etat against the rulers of the Islamic Republic of the time, Montazeri was dealt a blow. But a greater blow was inflicted on him when Kazem Sami, in a criminal action (with the possible involvement of Mohtashami, the interior minister of the time), was killed and Dari-Najafabadi, one of his close relatives, was tried by the special court for clerics and executed.

Montazeri's classes in Qom, after having been closed for a relatively long time, had started once again and became a place for the great assembly of seminary students unhappy with the regime, and Ayatollah Montazeri lost no opportunity to criticize the regime, as he had also done during his time as the deputy leader, criticizing the government and Khomeyni, which seemed quite astonishing.

The greatest criticism was made by Montazeri in a letter to Khomeyni asking him the reason for executions without trial in prisons.

Nevertheless, Khomeyni and some of those around him did not consider the physical destruction of Montazeri advisable. They thought that as long as he had no access to the media, it would be sufficient to neutralize him. But his frequent visits from various parts of the country, especially Tehran, worried the Islamic government very much.

The publication of Montazeri's announcement in opposition to the Madrid Conference in JAHAN-E ESLAM newspaper increased the government worries. Besides Montazeri's political capabilities and potential, which Khomeyni seriously doubted, his leadership could resolve the crisis resulting from the separation of the leadership and the source of emulation, because Montazeri continues to be a source of emulation.

According to reliable reports from Tehran, several months ago 'Ali Khamene'i wrote a letter to Montazeri and asked him to use his position to bring the nation together under the flag of the Islamic Republic, but Montazeri wrote in response that now they trust "neither you, nor me, nor any of the other leaders."

Dragging Montazeri onto the scene a few months before the elections of the fourth Majles, which Hashemi-Rafsanjani has called an eventful incident, adds a new dimension to the power struggle in the Islamic Republic.

Some time ago, dozens of representatives of the Majles went to Qom to visit Grand Ayatollahs Mohammad Reza Golpayegani, Mohammad 'Ali Araki, and Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. While visits to the first two created a stir among the rulers of the Islamic Republic, the visit to Montazeri caused Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian, the deputy speaker of the Majles, to be summoned to the special court for clerics, which has become very active in these months before the elections.

The representatives of the Majles have turned to Ayatollah Montazeri because in the election battle under way to take over the fourth Majles, the opponents of Rafsanjani want to bring a new force to the field.

Morteza Alviri, the Majles representative, said in his pre-agenda speech on 26 Aban 1370 [17 November 1991] that although Ayatollah Montazeri "resigned" as a deputy leader, his resignation would not change his being a source of emulation.

RESALAT newspaper two days after this speech, on 28 Aban [19 November], writes in this connection: "The statements of Alviri are problematic for many reasons." RESALAT states that given the clear judgment of Khomeyni about the competence of Montazeri as a leader of the Islamic Republic, "the gentlemen had better respond to the question of what interest there is for the regime and the revolution in presenting him politically and creating the grounds for his reappearance."

RESALAT, which is published under the management of Azari-Qomi, states that in the expressions of opinion by Montazeri during the years that he was the deputy leader, "there were no signs of obedience to the leader and the religious guardian." RESALAT concludes: "Raising the issue of the separation of the source of emulation and the leadership on the basis of the Constitution cannot be an appropriate excuse to discuss the person in question (Montazeri), because the political side of his personality is superior to other aspects, which is what the Imam himself warned him against. We must learn from the past and be aware that testing the tested is wrong."

* Hundreds Attend Farewell Ceremony for Musavian

92AS0293D Tehran SALAM in Persian
9 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] Mashhad. SALAM correspondent.

On Thursday afternoon, 16 Aban [7 November] of this year, in the mosque of Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, a magnificent gathering was held to say farewell to Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavian, the former director of KHORASAN newspaper.

In this ceremony, in which in an unprecedented manner, hundreds of students, clerics, businessmen and various strata of people took part, a number of the representatives of Khorasan in the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Aba'i-Khorasani, the acting Friday imam of Mashhad, and a group of local officials were also present.

In this gathering, which was held with the efforts of a group of the personnel and the former board of writers of Khorasan newspaper, first verses of the Koran were read. Then a member of the former board of writers of KHORASAN newspaper spoke briefly on behalf of those who organized the ceremonies. In his speech, he raised the question that these days everywhere there is talk of cultural invasion and we know that cultural and social depravation has roots in all sorts of other problems.

How is it that instead of eliminating the factors that create the grounds for such depravation, those people are dealt with who are among those who stand against such currents?

He continued: Are these very faithful mobilization and Hezbollah young people who served in this complex not the same individuals who have opposed and do oppose depravation and lack of cultural identity?

In continuation, he referred to the new cultural KHORASAN publication which had recently started, the third issue of which has been published, and emphasized:

The operation of this publication showed that if the cultural invasions and depravations in question are going to be confronted, the likes of these revolutionary young people on the line of the Imam can strive to do so. Then the message of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the representative of the leader in the Shahid Foundation and

the speaker of the Majles, addressed to Mr. Musavian was read by Engineer Bahzadian, the representative of Qa'en in the Majles.

In this message, reference was made to his authentic and clerical family as well as the bright past history of this family of seyyeds and religious jurists in the Islamic revolution and on the path of the Imam.

Also, in another part of the message of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the efforts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavian during his tenure at the KHORASAN newspaper were praised. Then the collective message of the representatives of the Majles in praise and gratitude for the efforts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavian was read for the audience.

According to our correspondent's report, the speaker at this magnificent assembly was Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Khamene'i. In his speech he referred to how the friends of the revolution and those who perpetuate the line of the Imam are treated and said:

Why is it that as soon as we face a different point of view than our own, we engage in eliminating the person with the opposing point of view and in culture closure? Is this the way to deal with opposing tastes? Why do we, as soon as we see a point of view that is opposite our own, instead of responding rationally, try to find a weakness in the opponent and aggrandize it? Is this Islamic tolerance? Why must we, instead of tolerating various viewpoints and opinions that are expressed compassionately, look for threads, to see, for example, with whom the person in question has had relations in the past or try to create financial and moral problems for him? Do we want to prevent the cultural invasions of the West by these actions? And are such actions proper in principle, such as calling anyone who speaks against you against religious guardianship?

Have you forgotten that some of your people during the time of the Imam were officially against religious guardianship and if someone would say, death to all those against religious guardianship, in an assembly, they would find themselves the addressees of this slogan and leave the gathering? In continuation, the speaker referred to the valuable role of Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavian during the revolution and the imposed war in the area of cultural work and praised and thanked him for his efforts.

In the conclusion of the ceremonies, gifts were offered to Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavian by the institutions and his supporters.

* Karrubi Sends Message to Musavian

92AS0293E Tehran SALAM in Persian
9 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful

Honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavian

With the expression of sincerity and kindness and recognition of the valuable importance of the role of the pen and expression in guiding and propagating the enlightening ideas of Islam and fighting the signs of the tyrants, I thank God that Your Honor has had a long history in this area. For this reason, the valuable services that you have rendered to the society prior to and after the victory of the Islamic revolution prompts me to express appreciation and gratitude for your worthy services during your tenure as the head of KHORASAN newspaper. I hope God will reward you for it.

For you who are from the pure line of the Prophet, a family of learning and holy struggle, I ask increasing success from God Almighty.

Representative of the Grand Leader and Head of the Shahid Foundation, Mehdi Karrubi

* Majles Deputies' Message to Musavian

92AS0293F Tehran SALAM in Persian
9 Nov 91 p 15

[Text] Honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavian

With high regard, we find it necessary to express gratitude and appreciation for your struggles and sincere services during the revolution and afterwards and ask for your success, you who are from the pure line of the Prophet and the famed committed and struggling clerical family, in continuing your valuable services.

Your eloquent and enlightening tongue and pen are gifts from God which have been given to the Islamic society. On the pulpit and in writing, you have rendered valuable services to the revolution and Islam, especially in publishing KHORASAN newspaper, with the changes that you instituted in that publication. This is an effort that will never be forgotten.

During your tenure, the newspaper reached such a high point of spreading Islamic culture and making people aware that it is considered one of the most distinguished newspapers in the country. Now that we are deprived of your knowledge and virtue in this way, we hope that again through another means you will continue the propagation of scholarly services and struggle to protect the sacred Islamic revolution of Iran.

We ask God for your certain victory in carrying out your Islamic duties.

A Group of Majles Representatives

Nepal & Bhutan

Kathmandu Announces Five-Year Economic Plan

BK0312131691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 3 Dec 91

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 3 (AFP)—Nepal announced Tuesday a five-year economic plan which largely relies on the private sector to generate 1.4 million jobs and boost gross domestic product (GDP) to 5.1 percent annually.

Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission Ram Sharan Mahat, announcing the plan outlaying 189.53 billion Nepalese rupees (4.45 billion dollars) over five years from next July, said the plan aimed to tackle the government deficit and inflation of 21 percent.

The plan was designed to control population growth and "fulfil the targets of democratic socialism," he said.

Mahat blamed the previous partyless regime for Nepal's economic woes.

"Owing to the long standing negligence under the 30 year partyless Panchayat system, the country's economic situation has been completely ruined."

He said the main focus of the plan was boosting economic growth from 3.2 percent this financial year to lift the standard of living of the rural poor.

About eight million of the 18.46 million population are living below the poverty line in this Himalayan country bordering on India.

"We cannot eliminate poverty from the country. However, we will try to improve their economy by providing job opportunities along with extending soft loans to get them to invest in the cottage or handicraft industries," Mahat said.

About 60 percent of the funds the government hopes are available for the plan—about 113.18 billion rupees (2.66 billion dollars)—is expected to be provided by the private sector in the form of investment in industries such as textiles, clothing, handicrafts and carpets.

The remainder of the funds will come from the public sector, and foreign bilateral and multilateral grants and loans.

India is expected to make a substantial aid contribution during the next five years, even though it had maintained a low profile in the last seven five-year plans formulated by the Panchayat government, he said.

About 26.2 percent of money available will be targetted at agricultural development, with about 19.6 percent for finance and real estate sectors.

About 8.2 percent, 15.56 billion rupees (366 million dollars), will be for the social services, including family planning, education and public health.

Mahat told reporters that Nepal would take measures to encourage foreign investment.

"The industrial policy is being fully modernized by providing the rights of property and income repatriation from Nepal and providing visas for the foreign companies' subordinates.

"Except for the industries affecting the national environment and based on minings and forestry etc., the system of delicencing has been introduced so that private entreprenuers may be encouraged to set up industries to help increase national production and generate employment."

"Delicencing" describes the process whereby the government now allows foreign companies to set up businesses without seeking special permission from the government.

The government was considering freeing some foreign exchange controls in the form of "providing foreign exchange earning shares to hoteliers, travel agents and others, so that foreign exchange black marketeering might be checked automatically," Mahat said.

"The new plan aims to increase national savings from the current 12.4 percent to 16 percent and heavily curtail the expenditure of non-productive sectors."

Pakistan

President Meets With Mojahedin Leaders

BK0312135091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] The Afghan mojahedin leaders had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the president praised the outcome of the recent visit of mojahedin leaders to Moscow and described the the joint statement issued there as an important step toward a political settlement. This process, he said, needed to be carried forward during the expected visit of the vice president of Russian Federation, Mr. Aleksandr Rutskoy.

(?Reviewing) the changes in the global and regional environment, the president impressed upon the mojahedin leaders to seize the opportunity for a political settlement that would bring peace to Afghanistan. In this connection, he emphasized the pivotal role of the United Nations and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. The mojahedin leaders agreed with the president's point of view and assured him of their resolve to intensify efforts for a just political settlement in cooperation with the UN and ICO.

Prime Minister Urges Peace Accord

BK0412094391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister has urged the Afghan mojahedin leaders to evolve a concrete action plan with the cooperation of the United Nations and the Islamic

Conference Organization for an early political settlement of the Afghanistan crisis. Addressing the Afghan mojahedin leaders who called on him in Islamabad yesterday, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said total unity in their ranks was very essential to achieve such a settlement.

Afghan leaders apprised the prime minister of the outcome of their talks in Moscow, which they described as successful. The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the progress made toward the political settlement of the problem and asked the mojahedin leaders to accompany him to Dakar where they have been invited to meet the heads of states and governments of Islamic countries who will gather in Senegal to attend the ICO summit conference. The prime minister said further talks will be held in Dakar.

The Afghan leaders who called on the prime minister included Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Prof. Seyyed Ahmed Gaylani, Sheykh Asef Mohseni, Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, Eng. Ahmed Shah, Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, and Samiollah. Army Chief of Staff General Asif Nawaz and Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan were also present on the occasion.

Iranian Minister Meets With Minister Nabi

BK0312145891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Wide-ranging talks on bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iran were held in Islamabad today between the Iranian delegation and the federal minister for production, Mr. Islam Nabi. The Iranian delegation was led by the minister of heavy industries, Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian. The two sides expressed their keen desire to expand the area of cooperation in industrial, engineering, automobile, and other economic fields. They agreed to implement at faster pace the existing Pakistan-Iran joint ventures and identify new joint projects through exchange of delegations of technical experts.